

Defense nominee wants to arm Ukrainians

Pentagon chief candidate says he supports lethal aid in fighting Russia-backed forces

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The nominee to be the next secretary of defense favors arming Ukrainian troops fighting Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

The Obama administration is debating whether to take that step and escalate the conflict that has been raging for nearly a year. Moscow has provided arms, troops and other assistance to the pro-Russia rebels, who have inflicted significant casualties on Ukrainian

government forces. Thus far, the U.S. has only provided nonlethal assistance to the Ukrainian military.

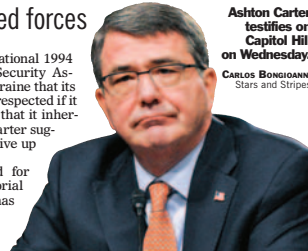
Ashton Carter, President Barack Obama's nominee to be the next Pentagon chief, told lawmakers during his Wednesday confirmation hearing that he supports providing lethal aid.

"The nature of those arms I can't say right now because ... I haven't conferred with our military leaders or Ukraine leaders," Carter said. "But I incline in the direction of providing them with arms."

The U.S. signed the multinational 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which promised Ukraine that its territorial integrity would be respected if it gave up the nuclear weapons that it inherited from the Soviet Union. Carter suggested that the U.S. needs to live up to its promises.

"That agreement provided for Russia to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, which it has obviously not done," he noted.

SEE CARTER ON PAGE 2



Ashton Carter testifies on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

CARLOS BONGIANNI
Stars and Stripes



A TransAsia Airways plane clips an elevated highway just before careening into the Keelung River in Taipei, Taiwan, on Wednesday in this image taken from a dashboard camera. Rescuers pulled to safety 15 of the 58 people on board. At least 25 were killed, and the toll was expected to rise.

TVBS/AP

TransAsia plane crashes into river

At least 15 survive Taiwan air disaster » Page 14

MIA remains identified but family still has questions

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The family at the center of a court battle with the government over the identification of a loved one missing in World War II got the news last month that they had been waiting for: Pvt. Arthur "Bud" Kelder had been identified and would be coming home.

Yet after they began to look at the report from the Joint Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command Central Identification Laboratory, their jubilation turned to dismay.

They are being given only a minute percentage of Kelder's skeletal remains, leaving the vast majority of bones in the government's possession unidentified. In addition, the family says the government has made procedural missteps and used flawed science, making the ID questionable.

"It's definitely progress," Kelder's cousin John Eakin said about presumptive ID. "I don't want to sound ungrateful, like I just want a little more, and a little more and a little more. But I just don't see this as a valid ID because of the way they went about it."

SEE REMAINS ON PAGE 6

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Confusion reigns on driver's license issue for troops in Germany

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A look at who might dominate the Grammys

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NHL

Dubnyk's arrival keeps Minnesota in the playoff hunt

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A lot of times you're going out, you're in a mud hut. ... You have bullets and a blanket, and sometimes you just have bread, but you need to hold the line."

— Jordan Matson, 28, of Sturtevant, Wis., a former U.S. soldier who joined the Kurds to fight the Islamic State group.

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MILITARY

Carter: Nominee says US needs to keep eye on rebalance

FROM FRONT PAGE

"The United States took on a commitment in the very same agreement to [assure] the ability of Ukraine to find its own way as an independent country," Carter said. "That is at stake today, and that's why I think we need to provide support to the Ukrainian government."

In response to a lawmaker's question, Carter made clear that he was not advocating sending U.S. combat troops to Ukraine to join the fight.

Carter addressed other key military topics at the hearing, including:

■ **Afghanistan.** There are about 10,000 U.S. troops remaining in Afghanistan. Obama plans to withdraw nearly all of them by the end of 2016. Carter said he might ask Obama to keep more troops there if the situation on the ground requires it. "The president has a plan. I support that plan. At the same time, it's a plan. And if I'm confirmed and I ascertain as the years go by that we need to change that plan, I will recommend those changes to the president."

■ **Asia-Pacific rebalance.** As China rises and the war in Afghanistan winds down, the U.S. is rebalancing its forces to the Asia-Pacific region. Carter said the U.S. needs to keep its eye on the rebalance, even as crises in the Middle East and Europe have the world's attention. "The world needs to know the United States can do more than one thing at once, and we can keep our commitments (in the Asia-Pacific)," he said. "We're buying new ca-



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Ashton Carter attends a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday as committee members considered his nomination to replace outgoing defense chief Chuck Hagel.

abilities that won't necessarily have a role in the Middle East or in NATO but are principally designed for that theater, and I think we need to keep those investments going."

■ **Sequestration.** Strict budget caps known as sequestration are slated to continue for the Pentagon in fiscal 2016 if Congress doesn't change the law. Carter ripped sequestration, saying it was "risky to our defense, it introduces turbulence and uncertainty that are wasteful, and it conveys a misleadingly diminished picture of our power in the eyes of friends and foes alike."

■ **Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detainee releases.** Carter was asked if he would resist pressure from the White House if it tried to mi-

cromanage military affairs. He said he would be "a stickler for the chain of command," and he would "play it absolutely straight" when it came to deciding whether to release particular detainees from the U.S. military prison at Gitmo.

■ **The Islamic State.** Carter said he supports the thrust of the administration's approach to the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. "I think it's important to strike back at [the Islamic State] as we're doing from the air, but to begin to re-take territory as soon as we can build the forces on the ground," he said. "It's my understanding that in coming months, the Iraqi security forces, assisted by us, will begin to take back territory" from the Islamic State group.

Carter is a technocrat and policy wonk who's worked at the Pentagon for years. From October 2011 to December 2013, he served as deputy secretary of defense. In that role, he led the Strategic Choices and Management Review, which laid out the military implications of sequestration.

Prior to being the Pentagon's No. 2 official, Carter served as undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logis-

tics. He oversaw the buying of the military's newest weapon systems and technologies.

Carter earned a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

"He's one of the few people who actually understands how many of our defense systems work," Obama joked when he announced Carter's nomination in December.

During the Clinton administration, Carter was assistant secretary of defense for international security policy.

With less than two years left in office, Obama tapped Carter for the Pentagon's top post because he wanted someone who didn't need to spend time learning the ropes. "He knows the Department of Defense inside and out ... which means that on Day 1, he's going to hit the ground running," Obama said.

Unlike outgoing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, Carter has never served in uniform.

A noncontroversial pick, Carter is expected to be easily confirmed by the Senate.

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Clarification

In the Wednesday story on the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission going before Congress, comments made by Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., were unclear. Ayotte said the military has a chance to lead the way on spending reforms, but that the problem is governmentwide, and broader reforms are needed so the military budget does not get squeezed.

Correction

Due to a calculation error, figures in a Jan. 15 story about Japan's military budget were incorrect. The 2015 budget calls for \$887.5 million for six F-35A fighter jets.

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MILITARY



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

An ordnance technician uses a robot to handle simulated chemical munitions used for training at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in southern Colorado last week. The United States is about to begin destroying its largest remaining stockpile of chemical-laden artillery shells.

US soon to start destroying largest remaining chemical weapons cache

By DAN ELLIOTT
The Associated Press

PUEBLO, Colo. — The United States is about to begin destroying its largest remaining stockpile of chemical-laden artillery shells, marking a milestone in the global campaign to eradicate a debilitating weapon that still creeps into modern wars.

The Pueblo Chemical Depot in southern Colorado plans to start neutralizing 2,600 tons of aging mustard agent in March as the U.S. moves toward complying with a 1997 treaty banning all chemical weapons.

"The start of Pueblo is an enormous step forward to a world free of chemical weapons," said Paul Walker, who has tracked chemical warfare for more than 20 years, first as a U.S. House of Representatives staffer and currently with Green Cross International, which advocates on issues of security, poverty and the environment.

The work starts less than a year after chlorine gas killed 13 people in Syria in April 2014. International inspectors concluded last month that the gas had been used as a weapon.

Before the chlorine attack, 1,400 people were killed in a 2013 nerve gas attack in Syria, the U.S. said.

Pueblo has about 780,000 shells containing mustard agent, which

can maim or kill, blistering skin, scarring eyes and inflaming airways. Mustard agent is a thick liquid, not a gas as commonly believed. It's colorless and almost odorless but got its name because impurities made early versions smell like mustard.

Afternightmarish gas attacks in World War I, a 1925 treaty barred the use of chemical weapons, and the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention set a 2012 deadline to eradicate them. Four nations that acknowledged having chemical weapons have missed the deadline: the U.S., Russia, Libya and Iraq.

Libya expects to finish in 2016 and Russia in 2020, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which oversees the Chemical Weapons Convention. Iraq's completion date is unknown.

The U.S. amassed 30,600 tons of chemical weapons, both mustard agent and deadly nerve agent, much of it during the Cold War. The Army described them as a deterrent, and the U.S. never used them in war.

Nearly 90 percent of the U.S. stockpile has been eliminated, mostly by incineration.

Coloradans worried about mercury vapor from incineration, said Irene Kornely, a member of the Pueblo Citizens Advisory Commission, a liaison

group established by Congress. The opposition in Colorado and in Kentucky, where chemical weapons are stored at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, prompted Congress to order alternatives.

The Army will use two methods for the Pueblo stockpile. In March, the first of an estimated 1,400 shells that are leaking or otherwise damaged will be placed in a sealed steel chamber with walls up to 9 inches thick. Explosives will tear open the shells, and the mustard agent will be neutralized with chemicals.

The remaining hundreds of thousands of shells will be run through a partially automated, \$4.5 billion plant starting in December or January. It will dismantle the shells, neutralize the mustard agent in water, and then add bacteria to digest and convert the remaining chemicals. The end product can be disposed of at a hazardous waste dump.

Pueblo expects to finish the job in 2019 — more than 55 years after some of the shells there were produced.

Blue Grass won't start destroying weapons until 2016 or 2017, finishing in 2023, Army spokeswoman Kathy DeWeese said. All told, it's costing about \$11 billion to destroy remaining U.S. chemical weapons.

Navy all-hands addresses hair, retirement plan

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

Sailors stationed all over the world peppered the chief of naval personnel with questions Tuesday in a live all-hands call on topics ranging from hairstyles and uniforms to retirement benefits and the length of deployments.

Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran told sailors that while there is no plan to reinstitute imminent danger pay for the 5th Fleet and no move to incentivize back-to-back deployments, the Navy is working to decrease the length of deployments to seven months.

"We are on a path right now ... to gradually reduce the length of deployments around the globe," he said, but doing so will take time because of the maintenance backlog.

Still, he said, Navy leaders are committed to reducing carrier strike group and expeditionary strike group deployments to seven months by 2017.

Moran also tried to tamp down concerns about the recent release of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission report.

Navy officials have another month to analyze the report and will communicate with sailors as they do so, he said, but the recommendations from the commission are just that — recommendations. The report won't change current benefits, and even if the retirement system does change down the road, active-duty service members will be able to keep the current plan or opt into the new plan, depending on their preference, Moran said.

"Breathe through your noses; don't hyperventilate," he said, assuring sailors that retirement pay and benefits aren't going away.

Other questions concerned issues such as uniforms, physical readiness tests and hair. A chief on the USS America asked why the updated Navy hair regulations allow twists but not dreadlocks.

Master Chief April Beldo, fleet master chief for manpower, personnel, training and education, said she had taken on the job of researching dreadlocks,

and spoke to several beauticians about the style.

The issue, she said, is that dreadlocks are harder to maintain.

"If I have a twist hairstyle and it's not in regulation, I can fix it immediately. That's not the case with dreadlocks," she said. With dreadlocks, the hair fuses together and the only solution would be to cut it, she said.

Beldo also told sailors that there are no new initiatives for uniforms, though the service dress uniform has been updated for men and women, and that will be phased in over time.



Moran

Moran said the Navy has gotten a lot of negative feedback on the fire-resistant coveralls sailors are required to wear at sea. Many sailors have said the uniform is very heavy, does not breathe, and discolors when washed.

"We've taken all that feedback and we're now redesigning that uniform, and we're on the process of going out on bids" to update the uniform, Moran said.

Moran also addressed concerns about the 1 percent reduction in housing allowances, noting that when he was a junior officer, sailors received only 75 percent of the basic housing allowance, or BAH.

"We've gotten used to 100 percent, which is very good," he said. "All we're doing now is trying to arrest the growth of BAH."

The allowance is determined by an independent source outside the Navy, based on cost of living and the rental market, he said. But in many locations, landlords set rental costs according to the allowance.

"We've got to be careful about not just growing BAH because we can," Moran said. "We've got to put some controls in there, and the start of that is this initial step of 1 percent, and we hope we don't have to go any further than that."

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Shifting of MRAPs examined in fatal cargo plane crash in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

DETROIT — A shifting of heavily armored military vehicles is being examined as a possible factor in the 2013 crash of a cargo plane in Afghanistan that killed six crewmembers from Michi-

gan and one from Kentucky, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday.

Its 86-page report is described as a summary of operational factors in the crash and does not reach conclusions on what caused

it. The agency said its findings on the cause are still to come.

The Dubai-bound Boeing 747-400 was being operated by National Air Cargo when it crashed just after takeoff from Bagram Air Field on April 29, 2013. It

was carrying 207 tons of cargo, including five mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles, or MRAPs, weighing 12 to 18 tons each. It then took on 53 tons of fuel at Bagram.

"According to National Air-

lines, the captain and first officer did not have prior experience carrying mine-resistant armored vehicles, and it was the first time National Airlines had transported 18-ton military vehicles," the report said.

PACIFIC

N. Korea: No renewed nuclear talks with US

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOHAMA, Japan — North Korea appeared to rule out renewed nuclear talks with the United States in a statement Wednesday that criticized Washington for engaging in regularly scheduled military drills with South Korea.

North Korea and the U.S. had been talking secretly about having a nuclear dialogue, according to a Washington Post report Tuesday, but the hyperbolic response released through Pyongyang's official news service negated any possibility of talks.

"The army and people of the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) cannot but officially notify the Obama administration ... that the DPRK has neither need nor willingness to sit at the negotiating table with the U.S. any longer ... since the latter seeks

'[T]he [U.S.] seeks to stamp out the ideology of [North Korea] and "bring down" its social system.'

North Korea

Resolve exercises with South Korea.

"Now that the brigandish U.S. imperialists' hostile policy toward the DPRK is getting extremely ferocious, the army and people of the DPRK will take stronger counteraction of justice to shatter it," the statement said.

to stamp out the ideology of the former and "bring down" its social system," the statement said.

The statement slammed the U.S. for its plans to conduct the annual spring Foal Eagle and Key

Last month, Pyongyang demanded the exercises stop as a precondition for talks with Seoul. South Korean President Park Geun-hye announced in January that she would like to hold talks without preconditions with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The statement also accused Washington of making up the accusation that North Korea was planning the cyberattack on Sony. The entertainment company produced "The Interview," a comedy about two men recruited by the U.S. government to kill North Korea's leader.

Shortly after denying any involvement in the cyberattack, the statement threatened that if the U.S. ever attacked North Korea, Pyongyang would counter "with its own preeminent cyber warfare and will thus bring earlier the final ruin of the U.S."

The United States has periodically at-

tempted to revive six-nation talks with North Korea, which broke down in 2007, in a bid to persuade the regime to end its nuclear program.

North Korea carried out its first nuclear test in 2006. International talks led North Korea to destroy a cooling tower at its Yongbyon nuclear plant two years later in exchange for concessions on sanctions. They have since tested increasingly powerful nuclear weapons in 2009 and 2013, and have threatened to use them against South Korea and the U.S.

The United States and its allies have also condemned North Korea due to its purported system of concentration camps for political prisoners, lack of basic freedoms for its citizens and other human rights abuses.

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DOD employee arrested in Va. for Navy contractor bribery scheme

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — In one of the Navy's worst corruption cases, a former senior Defense Department employee was arrested Tuesday on allegations he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in exchange for helping a Malaysian defense contractor.

Paul Simpkins was arrested Tuesday in Haymarket, Va., and

later arraigned on a charge of conspiracy to commit bribery in connection with a scheme to steer lucrative Navy contracts to Singapore-based Glenn Defense Marine Asia, or GDMA, and staff off its competitors. Simpkins, a former senior federal contracting officer for the Navy, could not be reached for comment.

"With the arrest of Paul Simpkins, who was recently among the

Defense Department's high-ranking civilians, we have uncovered yet another tentacle of this pervasive bribery scheme," said U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy, whose office wants Simpkins sent to San Diego to face charges.

"The more we learn about the extent of the greed and corruption, the more determined we are to eradicate it," she said.

The complaint alleges that

Simpkins accepted several hundred thousand dollars in cash and wire transfers, travel and the services of prostitutes in exchange for getting Navy contracts for GDMA, which has supplied food, fuel and other supplies to Navy vessels at Asian ports for 25 years.

GDMA CEO Leonard Glenn Francis allegedly paid Simpkins by hand-delivering more than \$150,000 in cash and by making

several wire transfers to a bank account held in the name of Simpkins' wife at the time. Simpkins allegedly used an email account belonging to his mistress to advise Francis of the routing and account information of the bank account belonging to his wife, according to prosecutors.

Francis pleaded guilty in federal court in San Diego to buying off U.S. military officials.



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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Lawsuit says military academies withheld info on recruiting women

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department is being sued for failing to comply with open-records statutes and withholding documents on how the country's military service academies recruit and admit students to their prestigious, yet tuition-free, institutions.

The Service Women's Action Network, or SWAN, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut filed suit after the academies did not respond to a Nov. 14 request for records relating to admissions policies, rates of admission, and information regarding admissions targets or quotas for women, according to a news release from the plaintiffs.

According to SWAN and the ACLU, the percentage of women at West Point has remained between 14 and 17 percent for more than 25 years; women are less than one-fourth of the brigade of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy; and the Air Force Academy has limited its enrollment of female cadets to at or below 23 percent since 1976.

That "underrepresentation," according to SWAN and the

ACLU, "contributes to a dearth of female officers" in the military. Women comprise 17 percent of officers, they say. That low percentage undermines attempts to rid the military and its academies of sexism, sexual harassment and sexual assault, the groups say.

The groups' request for records, filed under the Freedom of Information Act, also asked for information regarding facilities for women and policies and responses to sexual harassment and assault at the military service academies.

"The U.S. Air Force Academy (USFA), the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), and the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point have maintained policies and practices that have resulted in student populations in which women are significantly underrepresented, and campus environments where misogyny and harassment prevail," the news release says. "The lawsuit aims to capture information about the military academies' admissions and recruiting policies, with the ultimate goal of ending gender disparities and discrimination that women who aspire to be military officers face due to the policies."

The Defense Department declined to comment.

"As a matter of policy the Defense Department does not comment on pending litigation," spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen said in an email.

The Naval Academy responded to the FOIA request by disclosing some records, but it withheld others, the groups said. The Army and Air Force academies produced no documents at all.

"Accordingly, the lawsuit contends that DOD failed to release the records and failed to make a reasonable effort to search for the records within the statutory deadlines," they said.

Those accepted to the academies pay no tuition. They have a five-year commitment to serve after graduating as junior officers.

"The Military Service Academies are premier educational institutions that provide tuition-free paths to leadership and are run by the federal government — there is no excuse for the government to provide this opportunity to women at such dismally low rates," said Ariela Migdal, ACLU Women's Rights Project senior staff attorney.

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Officer suspected of filming women in carrier bathroom

By ED FRIEDRICH
(Bremerton, Wash.) Kitsap Sun

PACIFIC OCEAN — The Navy is investigating an incident last week aboard the USS John C. Stennis in which an officer allegedly filmed female officers inside their bathroom.

The aircraft carrier departed its Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton home Jan. 12 for flight qualifications off Southern California. The suspect came aboard with flight crews based there. The alleged incident occurred Thursday night.

"I am extremely disappointed in the alleged misconduct by a sailor temporarily embarked aboard our ship," Capt. Mike Wettlaufer, Stennis commanding officer, said in a statement released Saturday that also was posted on the ship's Facebook page. "However, I am pleased a shipmate stepped up to stop unacceptable behavior and reported it. An NCIS investigation commenced immediately because our shipmate took action."

According to a document the

Navy released to the Navy Times, a 33-year-old lieutenant was trying to film with a handheld electronic device held to a ventilation grate. When a woman approached, he said he was sorry and left. She later identified him and ship security took his personal electronic devices.

The suspect was flown off the ship with an escort and reported back to his chain of command, said Cmdr. Jeanette Groeneveld, Naval Air Forces Pacific spokeswoman. No more information will be released while the investigation is in progress, she said. It is expected to take a few weeks.

"The Navy holds its personnel to the highest standards of conduct," she said. "We are committed to holding personnel accountable for their actions and preserving good order and discipline."

In November, it was discovered that up to a dozen sailors allegedly viewed videos of female shipmates in a submarine shower dressing area.

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MILITARY

Remains: Only minimal remains of soldier are returned to family

FROM FRONT PAGE

Eakin, who is suing the government for a timely identification on behalf of the family, said they intend to fight until they get a "good identification." They want to wait until all testing is complete so they can bury all of Kelder's remains at once. They are asking that the most advanced techniques be used to verify the remains in question — to ensure that Kelder's remains have not been buried in caskets of others already identified and returned to other families. That would also address concerns that other remains have been misidentified.

A spokeswoman for the defense accounting agency, Lt. Col. Melinda Morgan, declined to answer questions about the case but said the family had to "accept the ID" before Kelder would be officially considered accorded for.

Court records indicate the family was notified of the identification Jan. 22. Eakin said they were immediately pressured to drop their lawsuit, filed in 2012. He said they were told to accept the identification as is, or Kelder's remains could be buried in a veterans cemetery without their involvement.

Joining the suit

Two other families have joined Eakin in his lawsuit against the government.

The family of 2nd Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Jr., who was posthumously awarded the first Medal of Honor of World War II, filed legal paperwork Jan. 23.

Government records indicate Nininger could be buried in grave J-7-20 at the Manila cemetery, near Kelder's former resting place. The motion was filed by Nininger's nephew, former Rhode Island state Sen. John A. Patterson.

Sally Hill Jones filed suit Dec. 4 seeking the identification of a set of remains that has been in the JPAC lab since 2005. JPAC officials said the remains do not belong to her uncle, Staff Sgt. Carl Holley. But, according to court documents, they said they used an "uncredited test protocol" to arrive at the "unvalued" result. Jones says she will continue to fight in court for an ID.

The government's accounting agencies have been plagued with problems for years, from questionable recovery results and internal turf wars to phony repatriation ceremonies. Last February, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel ordered a major reorganization of the agencies.

Eakin said his family questions how the Kelder identification was handled; they are being given only two sets of bones and a skull. The JPAC-CIL report says it is "possible" that more of Kelder's remains will be identified.

"I don't expect to get every finger and toe," Eakin said. "But where is the rest?"

The report states that the remains were "moderately commingled," requiring DNA analysis. The lab used mitochondrial DNA and Y-STR DNA testing, which tries to make a match using the maternal and paternal family lines of DNA. However, processes that are not exact and have a margin



The Kelder family includes, from left, Pvt. Arthur "Bud" Kelder; his mother, Julia; his father, Herman; and Bud's brother, also Herman.



The family of 2nd Lt. Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Jr., World War II's first Medal of Honor recipient, has joined a lawsuit against the defense personnel accounting agencies.

of error. Experts have said those tests are better used to exclude remains, not to make identifications. More precise nuclear DNA testing was not used.

JPAC did not follow the standard accounting practice of exhuming all of the remains buried together and identifying them concurrently. Four servicemen whose remains were found with Kelder's were allegedly identified after the war. Stars and Stripes obtained documents in December that those identifications could be incorrect.

"It's certainly a mess now," Eakin said. "I am not trying to stir the pot just to stir the pot. All of these guys deserve to come home."

Eakin believes Kelder's ID was made prematurely to compel him to drop his suit. The government filed a motion to essentially end the court case on the same day that the family was notified of the ID, before they viewed the report.

That would cancel claims by Jones and Patterson as well.

"Callous doesn't begin to describe how I took what they did," Eakin said.

Scientific certainty?

Stars and Stripes first detailed the Kelder case in 2013. He was one of 14 servicemen and Navy employees who died at the hands of the Japanese on Nov. 19, 1942, at the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp in Luzon. The men were buried in communal grave 717.

After the war, four were identified and returned to the U.S. for burial; the other 10 were buried in Manila as unknowns.

In 2009, Eakin began to probe his cousin's case. He soon discovered that the Army knew Kelder had been buried in one of 10 plots. He narrowed it down further through his research. Only one of the unknowns had gold dental inlays like his cousin. His theory was backed

the case.

Eakin discovered that Rick Stone, then a JPAC investigator, had been asked to look into the Cabanatuan grave 717 remains by JPAC's deputy to the commander for external relations and legislative affairs, Johnie Webb. Stone had recommended forensic review in reports to Webb, saying that the 10 men could likely be identified. He also said the four IDs could be incorrect.

Stone, who says his methods were called "voodoo" by JPAC officials, feels vindicated by the ID.

"I literally begged them to test my methods on a case like Pvt. Kelder's," he said. "They just laughed at me. Pvt. Kelder is coming home, and I don't think anyone in the JPAC command is laughing now."

With a judge considering wrestling control away from JPAC, the government exhumed the 10 sets of remains in August and have been working on identifications.

Eakin said the government has not disinterred the remains attributed to the four men from grave 717 — Pfc. Daniel Bain, Pfc. Juan Gutierrez, Sgt. Lawrence Hanscom and Pfc. Harvey Nichols.

Looking for answers

Patterson, who is Nininger's nephew, said Eakin inspired him to take similar action on behalf of his uncle. Grave J-7-20 contains the unknown remains of X-1130.

According to the report for X-1130, the remains were first thought to be Nininger's and were close to being positively identified as the Philippine scout. A height discrepancy halted the ID.

Patterson said the methodology used at the time has been debunked. He wants the remains exhumed and tested to see if they belong to his uncle.

Nininger was killed while charging alone into enemy territory and engaging in vicious hand-to-hand combat with Japanese invaders on Jan. 12, 1942, near Abucay, Bataan, in the Philippines, according to his Medal of Honor citation. He was wounded several times but managed to destroy enemy foxholes, killing groups of soldiers and snipers.

After the position was retaken, a dead enemy officer and two dead enemy soldiers lay by his side.

Patterson hopes the Medal of Honor's cache will call attention to Eakin's case and help other families get answers.

"I'd love to see someone from the government sidestep in and say, 'We're going to do this right,'" he said. "It's just awful."

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Courtesy of John Eakin

Kelder's family members believe the Army medic is buried as an unknown in this grave, A-12-195, at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

by two forensic dentists.

According to documents, Eakin contacted JPAC and the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office.

JPAC's former scientific director and deputy to the command for CIL operations, Thomas Holland, stated in a Jan. 28, 2013, memo that the case did not meet the standard of "scientific certainty" necessary to justify disinterment for DNA identification. JPAC commander Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague, now interim deputy director of government personnel accounting, used Holland's memo as the basis for JPAC's opinion, which was reiterated by DPMO — virtually ending Eakin's quest. He decided to sue, representing himself for most of

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EUROPE

Confusion reigns on Germany license issue

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

See available information on the license issue in a Q&A format
stripes.com/go/license

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Americans in Germany without a current state-issued driver's license scrambling to avoid penalties for driving illegally are encountering conflicting information from local authorities.

It's been about three weeks since U.S. Army Europe confirmed that some German states were no longer recognizing military-issued driver's licenses if the bearer did not possess a valid state-issued license.

The change has caused confusion across the board, from the members of the U.S. military community trying to come into compliance to the German authorities responsible for administering and enforcing the new policy.

Now the German states have appealed to the Transportation Ministry for clarity.

We are currently working on a solution to the problem and on clarifying the still-open questions," the ministry said in a statement Wednesday. The goal is also "to achieve a unified approach among the states."

It was not clear, however, how that would affect discussions between the U.S. and Germany regarding their divergent interpretations of what constitutes acceptable documentation to drive in Germany under the German supplement to the Status of Forces Agreement. USAREUR maintains that Germany has unilateral changed its interpretation of the SOFA supplement and argues that any such changes must be agreed by all parties concerned following consultation.

In an exchange of letters in 1993, the year the supplementary agreement was negotiated, the German government said it would interpret Article 9 to mean an expired U.S. state license in conjunction with a current USAREUR-issued "Certificate of License" would be considered a "valid basis" to drive a USAREUR-plated car, USAREUR officials have said.

"We still think our interpretation is the correct one," Hilde Patton, a USAREUR spokeswoman, said. "That is what we are discussing right now."

But even USAREUR seems to contradict its own policy. The 2010 USAREUR Drivers Handbook and Examination Manual for Germany reads in part: "To be valid, licenses must be signed in black or blue ink and carried with a valid identification card and a valid country or State license."

Though the NATO SOFA agreement applies to all NATO foreign forces stationed in Germany, a member of Canadian Forces at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base said Canadian Forces have not been informed of any changes to their drivers' license rules in Germany.

"We've heard rumblings of it, from Ramstein," said transport NCO Sgt. Mike Thibodeau, referring to the U.S. air base where some Canadians are stationed. "As long as we have a valid license from our office, that was OK," he said.

Thibodeau added that Canadian Forces members are required to maintain a valid license from their home province, to help ease their transition back to Canada. "Everyone pretty much has it already," he said.

Meanwhile, Americans in Germany without a current state-issued license are trying to figure out what options they have.

It's not known how many Americans have been driving with an expired state-issued license, but USAREUR is advising them to renew the license as soon as possible and, in the interim, to stay off the road until the dispute has been resolved.

Some people have booked hasty trips back to the States to renew licenses they cannot renew online. But others are finding that is not an easy option, especially if they have lived many years overseas and no longer have sufficient documentation to prove residency in the state where their licenses were issued.

Some never had a state-issued license, having gone through driver training that was provided by USAREUR prior to the SOFA supplement coming into force in 1998. According to legal experts, those drivers should be entitled to get a German license.

But German licensing officials have been inconsistent on that issue.

Brigitte, a German whose husband is a civilian Defense Department employee without a state-issued license, was told by an official at the Rheinland-Pfalz Interior Ministry that he could get a German license. He would need to provide documentation that he got his USAREUR license before 1998, as well as a translated copy of his driving record, which was obtained from USAREUR's registry of motor vehicles for a \$25 fee.

Brigitte, whose husband has



JOSHUA L. DeMORTIS/Stars and Stripes

German police officer David Giesler instructs a motorist to pull into a parking lot for inspection during a random traffic check outside of Kleber Kaserne, a U.S. base on the east side of Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Wednesday.

been paying 17 euro for taxi rides to get to work when Brigitte can't drive him, submitted the paperwork to the Kaiserslautern county driver's licensing office. But an employee there said she knew nothing about it.

"She said it was 'ridiculous that they (the ministry) would tell a citizen more than they tell us,'" Brigitte said she was told.

Ultimately, Brigitte's request ended back at the Interior Ministry, which this time sided with county licensing officials, Brigitte said. She asked that her last name not be used because she's continuing her quest through other channels. In an email, which Brigitte provided to Stars and Stripes, the Interior Ministry official said the ministry was receiving numerous similar requests from members of the U.S. military community. As this was clearly a nationwide problem, it was up to federal authorities and the U.S. to resolve, the official wrote.

Officials in the neighboring state of Hessen apparently can't agree either.

In Wiesbaden, Americans with a USAREUR driving certificate dated prior to 1998 can get a German driver's license with the requisite documentation, certifying their eligibility, said Ulrike Jung from the city's department of drivers' licenses.

But officials in other towns in Hessen have flatly refused such requests.

Those willing to roll the dice and drive without a valid state-issued license while awaiting a ruling from the federal level face large fines — up to 600 euro or more — if caught.

Neither German nor American authorities could say how many American drivers have been cited for not having a valid state-issued license since the issue came to light.

In Kaiserslautern — home to the largest U.S. military community overseas of roughly 50,000 — local police said they've stepped about 15 Americans with expired state-issued licenses since they began enforcing the new policy in early November, said Kaiserlautern police officer Michael

USAREUR has not altered its licensing policies in response to the dispute. While Americans need a current state-issued license to obtain an initial "U.S. Forces Certificate of License," they don't have to show a state-issued license to renew it.

However, USAREUR has begun noting the expiration date of drivers' state-issued licenses when they first apply for a military-issued one, Patton said. The dates will go into a database but for what purpose is unclear. "We just think it is now something that should be noted," Patton said.

Those without a valid state-issued license face a predicament with no easy answer.

Army civilian Jordan Lessire, 33, has a California license that expires this month. He submitted paperwork for renewal using his sister's old address, since he no longer has residency there. He'll have to wait weeks for a new license — if California even renews it, he said.

When his license expires, he faces a dilemma that countless Americans caught up in the current dispute find themselves in: "Do I show up to work with the risk of getting into huge amounts of trouble? If I do get in trouble, is my chain of command going to back me up?"

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"We still think our interpretation [of the German supplement to the SOFA] is the correct one. That is what we are discussing right now."

Hilde Patton
USAREUR spokeswoman

MILITARY

Exchange rates hit US troops' COLAs in Japan

By ERIK SLAVIN
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Servicemembers have seen their paychecks shrink markedly in recent months as drops in cost-of-living allowances have far outpaced the purchasing power gained from a weaker Japanese yen.

On Sept. 1, one U.S. dollar bought 104.4 Japanese yen at in-traday trading rates. By Jan. 9, the dollar bought 120 yen, a nearly 15 percent increase in purchasing power.

During that same time period, an E-5 stationed at Yokota Air Base with eight years of service and two dependents living off base saw their daily COLA drop from \$21.60 to \$7.27 — or a monthly rate of \$324 to \$109 — a 66 percent decrease.

Servicemembers at most other locations in Japan saw a 30 percent to 50 percent COLA decrease, with the exception of sailors at Sasebo Naval Base, who saw a 19 percent drop.

COLAs could rebound slightly but may see an even steeper drop later this year if forecasts from several Japanese economists of a weaker yen prove correct.

COLA is intended to give servicemembers the same purchasing power overseas that they would have if they lived in the continental United States.

There are three main factors that change COLA: comparative prices, currency rates and spending habits.

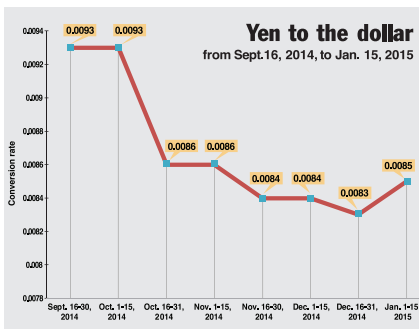
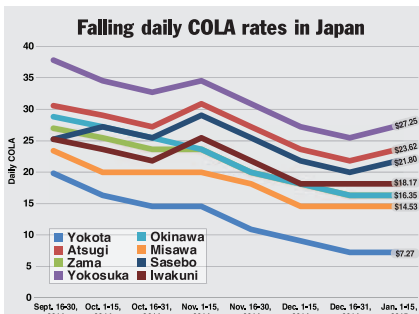
If Japanese prices had suddenly dropped in comparison with the U.S., the resulting added purchasing power would mean a lower COLA — but that didn't happen, at least on a national scale.

Consumer prices in Japan rose at their fastest pace in 23 years at one point in 2014, shortly after a 3 percent increase in the nation's sales tax. Inflation has remained between 2 percent and 3 percent for the first time in decades.

At the same time, consumer prices in the United States rose only 1.3 percent from December

Falling COLA rates in Japan

Servicemembers living in Japan have seen their COLA rates drop faster than the yen rate over the same period of time. Here's a look at how the daily COLA rate has changed since September.



SOURCE: Oanda.com; Department of Defense

NOGA AMP-RW/Stars and Stripes

2013 through November 2014, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Despite those figures, a retail

price survey conducted by the military in April showed prices in Japan dropping in comparison with those in the United States,

Contract employee for school treated for TB

A DODDS contract employee in Wiesbaden who worked in information technology is being treated for tuberculosis outside Germany, Army's Europe Regional Medical Command said Wednesday.

"School officials said the individual had no contact with students and Army public health officials have indicated that this case poses no risk to children and a minimal risk to school staff," ERMC said in a statement.

Parents of Wiesbaden students were informed of the case earlier in the week, and officials were

scheduling a town hall for Thursday to provide information to the community, said Shane Sharp, an ERMC spokesman.

The employee will not return to work at Department of Defense Dependents Schools until all lab results come back negative for tuberculosis, according to ERMC. "Public health investigators

will contact any employees who may have been in contact with the patient for possible tuberculosis testing," the command said.

According to ERMC, tuberculosis is much more difficult to spread than influenza, and even family members who have close daily contact with infected patients may not contract the

disease.

For more information, contact Lt. Col. Lashanda Cobbs, commander of Wiesbaden's Army health clinic, at DSN 590-1347 or commercial 06371-9464-1347, or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at cdc.gov/tb.

news@stripes.com

A six-month comparison of E-5 COLAs

Servicemembers in Japan have seen their cost-of-living allowances plummet in recent months. The following comparisons are for an E-5 with two dependents living off base, calculating COLAs received for the first two weeks of July 2014 and January 2015:

Yokota: \$324 to \$109, 66 percent decrease.

Atsugi: \$486 to \$354.25, 27 percent decrease.

Zama: \$432 to \$245.25, 43 percent decrease.

Yokosuka: \$621 to \$408.75, 34

percent decrease.

Okinawa: \$486 to \$245.25, 49.5 percent decrease.

Misawa: \$378 to \$218, 42 percent decrease.

Sasebo: \$405 to \$327, 19 percent decrease.

Iwakuni: \$405 to \$272.50, 33 percent decrease.

Japanese yen rate against U.S. dollar: 102-1 to 120-1, 18.8 percent increase.

Source: www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/colacalc.cfm

Pentagon officials said. Stars and Stripes has requested the survey data, but they were not immediately available.

"The recent COLA decreases for Japan are the result of both currency and data changes," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen wrote in a statement.

"Some locations experienced a decrease as the result of the annual data review coupled with currency changes, while other locations are experiencing decreases based solely on the drastic changes to the yen over the last six months."

Data from a living pattern survey of servicemembers conducted in 2013 — when the yen was far stronger — also contributed to the recent COLA decreases, Christensen said.

Most COLA drops began in October, the beginning of the fiscal year. Japan is expected to report living expenses again in April.

Currency value fluctuations do account for COLA rises and drops, but not entirely. For example, if surveys show that servicemembers in an area spend 50 percent of their spendable income off base, and the local currency weakens against the dollar by 4 percent, then COLA would drop 2 percent, according to the Defense Travel Management Office website.

The days of 100-to-1 parity between the yen and dollar are unlikely to come back anytime soon, according to most economists.

While predictions are far from a guarantee when it comes to world economies, Japanese and U.S. government policies are likely to keep the yen relatively weak.

Kengo Suzuki, chief foreign exchange strategist at Mizuho Securities, forecasts the yen will strengthen over the next few months into the 115 range before falling further.

In June, the U.S. Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates, while the Japanese will continue their weak yen policies as an economic stimulant, Suzuki said.

Suzuki expects those factors, along with a positive U.S. economic outlook, to sink the yen into the high 120s, and possibly the 130s, against the dollar.

Yuji Kameoka, chief foreign exchange analyst at Daiwa Securities, said the yen has remained as strong as it is only because of the global decline in oil prices.

"However, the drop in oil prices will not last long, and the world economy will recover, making the yen ... a weaker currency," Kameoka said.

The Japanese government will pursue a weaker yen in order to sell more Japanese exports overseas, he said. Meanwhile, if the U.S. stock market continues its gains, demand for the yen will drop, further weakening the currency.

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NATION



SETH WENIG/AP

The wreckage of a car remains smashed against the front of a train in Valhalla, N.Y., on Tuesday after a crash that left six people dead.

6 dead in NY train-Jeep crash

By KILEY ARMSTRONG
The Associated Press

VALHALLA, N.Y. — A crowded commuter train slammed into a sport utility vehicle on the tracks at a suburban New York crossing and burst into flames, killing six people, seriously injuring more than a dozen others and sending hundreds of passengers scrambling for safety, authorities said.

The collision involved a Metro-North Railroad train and a Jeep Cherokee on Tuesday evening in Valhalla, about 20 miles north of New York City. Authorities said the impact was so forceful the electrified third rail came up and pierced the train.

The SUV's driver and five people aboard the train were killed, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. He said 15 people were injured, seven of

them seriously.

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino said the front part of the train was "completely charred and burned."

"I am amazed anyone got off that train alive. ... It must have been pure panic, with the flames, the third rail and the smoke," he said.

Authorities said the SUV's driver had gotten out of her vehicle momentarily after the crossing's safety gates came down around her. She then got back in and was trying to drive forward when she was hit, they said.

The northbound Metro-North Railroad train left Grand Central Terminal in Manhattan around 5:45 p.m. and struck the SUV about 45 minutes later.

It was unclear how fast the train was going, but the maximum

would be 60 mph, a railroad official said.

The train shoving the SUV about 10 train car lengths. Smoke poured out of the scorched front rail car, its windows blackened.

"This is a truly ugly and brutal site," Cuomo said.

Witnesses said they saw the flames shooting from where the crash occurred, in a wooded area near a cemetery.

Ryan Cottrell, assistant director at a nearby rock climbing gym, said he had been looking out a window because of an earlier, unrelated car accident and saw the train hit the car, pushing it along.

Around 65 passengers likely were aboard the train. Most were moved to the rear of the train so they could get off. Buses picked them up and took them to other stations.

Obama claim of \$1.8 trillion in deficit cuts is open to question

By ANDREW TAYLOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's budget is relying on a series of familiar accounting tricks to show \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction over a decade, an amount that would shrink by almost half if they were excluded.

But so-called "pay-go" rules officially require tax cuts and new

spending on the mandatory side of the ledger to be balanced by new revenues or spending cuts elsewhere. Mandatory spending, like fees that Medicare pays to doctors, runs on autopilot.

The accounting steps essentially inflate the White House's "baseline" predictions of future deficits. Then the White House claims greater deficit savings than it otherwise could if it played by the budget rules followed by the Congressional Budget Office, whose estimates lawmakers have to follow.

That's according to a study by the budget sleuths at a Washington think tank called the Committee For a Responsible Federal Budget, a business-funded group that advocates cutting deficits.

Here's how:

Automatic cuts

In the budget table summarizing the \$1.8 trillion in deficit cuts, there's a line that adds back funds to replace the automatic, across-the-board cuts to a variety of mandatory programs, including a 2 percentage point cut in payments to doctors who treat Medicare patients.

That's a major assumption on Obama's part about the fate of the automatic cuts, part of the deal he struck with Congress in August 2011.

Cost: \$185 billion over 10

years.

Medicare fees

There's a proposal to permanently fix a flawed Medicare formula that threatens doctors with an even bigger 21 percent fee cut. Lawmakers typically "patch" the formula for a year or two but hope for a long-term solution this year. Cost: \$108 billion.

Refundable tax credits

A set of refundable tax credits — tax refunds that go out to low-income people who don't owe federal income tax — expire in 2017. So does a maximum \$2,500 tax credit for the cost of college. Obama's budget simply assumes they get extended. Cost: \$166 billion.

Inflated baseline spending

This one's tricky and requires background. Under budget rules, official scorekeepers at the Congressional Budget Office are supposed to set an arbitrary baseline for annual agency budgets passed by Congress each year that rises each year with inflation at a relatively generous pace.

The 2011 Budget Control Act slashed this spending increase by \$900 billion by setting spending "caps" well below this baseline.

The caps are lifted after 2021, but Obama's 10-year budget covers four more years. The White House assumes the baseline would jump to inflated levels that pretend the 2011 law never happened. Then it claims huge savings when cutting them back in 2022-25 to more realistic levels.

Questionable savings: about \$310 billion.

Debt service

Additional debt would have to be issued to cover the above policies, and interest costs on that debt are considerable.

Cost: about \$105 billion

Grand total: \$874B

In summary, Obama's budget claims \$1.809 trillion in deficit savings. Take away \$874 billion accruing from accounting tricks and there's about \$935 billion left.

Here's how Edward Lorenzen, a top analyst for the Committee For a Responsible Federal Budget puts it: "The budget significantly overstates the amount of deficit reduction that would be achieved by using a baseline which effectively ignores the costs of extending or repealing certain policies and assuming a large increase in spending in the future to claim savings from extending spending limits after 2021."

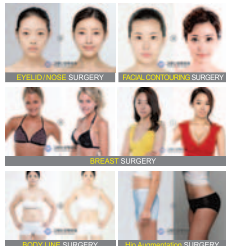
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NATION

Maternal pot use under microscope

The Associated Press

DENVER — Colorado lawmakers struggling to make sense of incomplete scientific evidence about marijuana use by pregnant and nursing women have scrapped a bill to add warnings in pot shops about maternal marijuana use.

Lawmakers rejected a bill that would have required dispensaries to post signs warning about “ dangers to fetuses caused by smoking or ingesting marijuana while pregnant.” They heard testimony from women who used marijuana to treat nausea during pregnancy, but also from doctors who called for additional warnings.

Republican Rep. Jack Tate vowed to try again to craft additional warnings after hearing of pregnant women using marijuana.

“It is very, very important for women to be informed consumers when making health care decisions,” Tate said.

But lawmakers also heard from women who said existing warnings are adequate. Colorado and Washington state, the first states with recreational pot stores, both require shoppers to get written warnings that include suggestions pregnant and nursing women should avoid pot.

Sadie Lane, chapter leader for Colorado Foothills Moms for Marijuana, testified that she used pot while pregnant and women need to talk to doctors, not pot-shop operators, about using the drug while pregnant.

“Show them both sides and let

them make the decision with their doctor,” Lane said.

A report issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment this week notes that marijuana’s psychoactive ingredient, THC, is passed to children through the placenta and breast milk. But the doctors who compiled the survey of existing research also noted that the health consequences of that THC exposure aren’t fully understood.

The report’s authors found:
■ “Mixed” evidence for pot’s link to birth defects.

■ “Insufficient” evidence that marijuana use during pregnancy makes offspring more likely to use pot themselves as adolescents.

■ “Moderate” evidence that maternal use of marijuana during pregnancy is associated with attention problems, cognitive impairment and low IQ in offspring.

■ “Mixed” evidence that marijuana use during pregnancy is associated with low birth weight.

Still, the doctors concluded, “There is no known safe amount of marijuana use during pregnancy.”

The report, released Monday, reflected national conclusions on marijuana’s health risks.

An American Academy of Pediatrics report in 2013 listed marijuana among the most common drugs involved in prenatal exposure that may pose important health risks, including possible behavior and attention problems in childhood.



LADYRENE PEREZ, CUABERATE/AP

People wave Cuba’s national flag as they march to celebrate the 162nd anniversary of the birth of Cuba’s national independence hero, Jose Martí, in Havana on Jan 27.

US will back dissidents in Cuba

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration’s lead negotiator with Cuba is vowing to maintain U.S. support for democracy and human rights activists there as she pushes to restore embassies between the countries after a half-century interruption.

An Associated Press-GfK poll finds broad support in the United States for warmer ties with Cuba. Forty-five percent of those surveyed backed the re-establishment of full diplomatic relations between the Cold War foes, with only 15 percent opposing. Sixty percent backed the end of the U.S. economic embargo of Cuba, with 35 percent supporting its continuation.

Roberta Jacobson, the assistant

secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, is set to testify before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. On Tuesday she told a Senate panel that she planned more talks with her Cuban counterparts later this month. The administration had hoped to reach an agreement on new embassies by April’s Summit of the Americas in Panama, though that looks unlikely.

Jacobson’s talks with Cuba encompassed the details of re-constituting embassies in each other’s capitals, managing migration flows and the much larger process of normalizing ties between governments with unresolved issues such as fugitives and financial claims.

She said she raised several remaining barriers to full diplomatic relations, including U.S. resistance to any restrictions on American diplomats, shipments to the U.S. Interests Section and Cuban access to that building.

Seizing on comments made by Josefin Vidal, Cuba’s top negotiator, after last month’s talks, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., asked Jacobson for a commitment that the U.S. would continue backing activists after any agreement. In an interview with The Associated Press, Vidal had tied the establishment of embassies to reduced U.S. support for dissidents.

“We would not curtail the activities we’re doing now,” Jacobson answered.

Path to compromise unclear as lawmakers debate immigration

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — To hear congressional Republicans tell it, Democrats are so eager to grant work permits to immigrants in the U.S. illegally that they’d risk funding for the Homeland Security Department to do it. Democrats counter that it’s Republicans who are jeopardizing the Homeland Security budget in their zeal to deport immigrants brought here illegally as children.

Those two opposing sides are in a high-stakes drama underway on Capitol Hill

as lawmakers wrangle over a \$39.7 billion House-passed bill that funds the department for the remainder of the budget year while overturning President Barack Obama’s executive actions limiting deportations of millions here illegally and giving them the ability to work.

One way or another, most involved agree, Congress will find a way to approve funding for the Homeland Security Department, even if lawmakers have to pass a short-term extension ahead of the Feb. 27 deadline before coming up with a final deal.

How and when lawmakers will get there is less clear.

On Tuesday, Senate Democrats united against a procedural vote that would have opened debate on a House-passed bill. A total of 51 Republicans voted to advance the bill — short of the 60 needed — while all 44 Democrats, two independents and two Republicans were opposed.

Republicans indicated there would be more votes on the measure in the days to come, and Democrats promised the result would not change unless Republicans re-

moved the language on immigration.

House Republicans were casting about for another solution, such as splitting up the funding bill, said GOP Rep. Matt Salmon, of Ariz.

In the Senate, Susan Collins, R-Maine, said she was working with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and others on alternate legislation to fund the Homeland Security Department and roll back the new administration policies limiting deportations, but keeping in place protections for immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Jordan, shaken by killing, executes 2 inmates

2 al-Qaida prisoners are hanged in response to Islamic State video of pilot's death

The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordan executed two al-Qaida prisoners before dawn Wednesday, just hours after an online video purported to show Islamic State group militants burning a captured Jordanian pilot to death in a cage.

The gruesome death of Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh, 26, captured while participating in airstrikes by a U.S.-led coalition targeting the militants, sparked outrage across the Middle East and anti-Islamic State protests in Jordan.

King Abdullah II, a staunch Western ally, rushed back to Jordan, cutting short a Washington trip to try to persuade his people to support an even tougher line against the militants. Rallying such backing is pivotal

for Jordan's continued role in the coalition. Public opinion in Jordan has been ambiguous — growing demands for revenge against the militants have been mixed with misgivings about Jordan's role in a bombing campaign widely seen as serving Western interests.

The extremists, meanwhile, appeared to be goading Jordan. In Raqqa, the Islamic State group's de facto capital, the militants gleefully played al-Kaseasbeh's slaying on outdoor projectors, with some chanting "God is great," according to militant video posted online Wednesday that conformed to Associated Press reporting of the event.

In the 20-minute video, the pilot displayed signs of having been beaten, including a black eye. Toward the end of the clip,

he is shown wearing an orange jumpsuit. He stands in an outdoor cage as a masked militant ignites a line of fuel leading to it.

The video of his purported killing was released on militant websites and bore the logo of the extremist group's al-Furqan media service. The clip featured the slick production and graphics used in previous Islamic State group videos. It could not immediately be confirmed independently by the AP.

A wave of condemnation washed across the Middle East on Wednesday, signaling that the Islamic State group militants might have overplayed their hand by putting their brutality toward a fellow Muslim on display.

Following the pilot's death, Jordan launched what it said would be a tough

campaign against the Islamic State group. In a first response, Jordan executed Sajida al-Rishawi and Ziad al-Karbooly, two Iraqis linked to al-Qaida, government spokesman Mohammed al-Momani said. Another official said they were executed by hanging. Authorities said the pair would be buried later in Jordan.

Islamic State group militants purportedly had demanded Jordan release al-Rishawi in exchange for the pilot. Over the past week, Jordan had offered to trade her, but froze any swap after failing to receive any proof that the pilot was still alive.

The Jordanian military said, without elaborating, that the pilot was killed Jan. 3, suggesting officials knew any attempt to trade would be in vain.

Westerners join Kurds in fighting militants

The Associated Press

SINJAR, Iraq — As Kurdish fighters gathered around a fire in this damp, rugged mountain town in northwestern Iraq, exhausted from battling the Islamic State group, a surprising recruit wearing a tactical vest with the words "Christ is Lord" scribbled on it joined them.

The fighter, with a sniper rifle slung over his shoulder and Rambo-style bandanna around his head, is Jordan Matson, 28, of Sturtevant, Wis., a former U.S. Army soldier who joined the Kurds to fight the extremist group now holding a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria.

"I'm not going back until the fight is finished and ISIS is crippled," Matson told The Associated Press, using an alternate acronym for the militant group. "I decided that if my government wasn't going to do anything to help this country, especially Kurdish people who stood by us for 10 years and helped us out while we were in this country, then I was going to do something."

Matson and dozens of other Westerners now fight with the Kurds, spurred on by Kurdish social media campaigners and a sense of duty many feel after Iraq collapsed under an Islamic State group offensive within days last summer. While the U.S. and its coalition allies bomb the extremists from the air, Kurds say they hope more Westerners will join them in the ground fight.

The Kurds turned to the Internet to find their warriors, creating a Facebook page called "The Lions of Rojava" with the stated mission to send "terrorists to hell and save humanity." The page also frequently features portraits of smiling, beautiful and heavily armed Kurdish female commanders and fighters.

Matson and three other Americans and



VIVIAN SALAMAN/AP

Jordan Matson, 28, right, a former U.S. Army soldier from Sturtevant, Wis., takes a break with Kurdish fighters from the People's Protection Units in Sinjar, Iraq, on Jan. 29.

an Australian national who spoke to the AP all said they arranged joining Kurdish forces through the Facebook page, run by the People's Protection Units, or YPG, the main Syrian Kurdish militia fighting in northern Syria and Iraq. They crossed from Turkey into Syria before later joining a Kurdish offensive sweeping into Iraq to challenge the Islamic State group. They now are based in Sinjar.

Foreigners such as Matson seemed drawn to helping Kurds, Yazidis and other minority ethnic groups caught up in the battle, facing possible destruction at the hand of extremists willing to massacre hundreds in propaganda videos.

"How many people were sold into slavery or killed just for being part of a different ethnic group or religion?" he said. "That's something I am willing to die to defend."

So far, the U.S. hasn't banned Americans from fighting with militias against the Islamic State group, though it considers the Turkey-based Kurdish Workers' Party, commonly known as the PKK, a terrorist organization. The PKK has been fighting alongside the YPG in Sinjar and in the Syrian town of Kobani.

Under Australian law, it is illegal to fight with any force outside of its national army.

Australia also is one of the first countries to criminalize travel to Syria's al-Raqqa province, the de facto capital of the Islamic State group.

The U.S. Embassy in Baghdad had no immediate comment to an AP query about Americans fighting with the Kurds.

There's a clear camaraderie among the foreign fighters in Sinjar, most traveling in pairs around the town.

One fighter, Khalil Oysal, 21, of Syria, spends much of his time with the foreigners since he can speak English.

"We learn from them and they learn from us," said Oysal, who American and Australian fighters have nicknamed "Bucky."

Fighting remains dangerous for the Westerners. Two of the foreign fighters said they had just returned from visiting an American fighter badly wounded in battle. They said another foreign fighter, a Dutch national, was severely wounded in battle in Syria last week.

"You need to know what you're getting into," Matson said. "A lot of times you're going out, you're in a mud hut. You have bullets and a blanket, and sometimes you just have bread, but you need to hold the line."

Key lawmakers support helping Jordan combat Islamic State

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Support is building in Congress for increased U.S. military assistance to Jordan in the wake of the murder by immolation of a Jordanian air force pilot by his Islamic State militant captors.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said Wednesday that Jordanian King Abdullah II must be given "all of the military equipment" he needs to combat the Islamic State group.

"It was just absolutely painful to talk" to the king about the death of the Jordanian air force pilot, Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh, said Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va.

Manchin said the Jordanians are willing to fight. He said he expects "very quick movement" from the Armed Services Committee on getting them the equipment they need.

"The Saudis have to engage and the Kurds have to engage, and we're going to support them" he said.

Manchin said the king did not ask for ground troops in his talks with lawmakers.

Appearing Wednesday morning with Manchin on MSNBC, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, said the king "expressed frustration that it takes so long for our bureaucracy to get the job done."

Thornberry said he hopes the death of the pilot has impact on the West because "that sort of cruelty is pretty unimaginable for most of us." He said he believes the U.S. is not "the target audience" for the Islamic State, which he said is in competition with al-Qaida for supremacy in the Middle East.

Kaine said that Abdullah told lawmakers this is a primarily a regional "jihad" problem and said the king told them that "we have to defeat this within our own region because it's our position."

President Barack Obama joined the king at the White House on Tuesday evening in vowing not to let up in the fight against the Islamic State group.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Coke bets supermilk will 'rain money'

By Candice Choi
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Coke is coming out with premium milk that has more protein and less sugar than regular. And it's betting people will pay twice as much for it.

The national rollout of Fairlife over the next several weeks marks Coca-Cola Co.'s entry into the milk case in the U.S. and is one way the world's biggest beverage maker is diversifying its offerings as Americans continue turning away from soft drinks.

It also comes as people increasingly seek out some type of functional boost from their foods and drinks, whether it's more fiber, antioxidants or protein. That has left the door open for Coke to step into the milk category, where the differences between options remain relatively minimal and consumption has been declining for decades.

"It's basically the premiumization of milk," Sandy Douglas,



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Fairlife milk products appear on display in the dairy section of an Indianapolis grocery store.

president of Coca-Cola North America, said at an analyst conference in November. If developed properly, Douglas said it is the type of product that "rains money."

Fairlife, which Coca-Cola formed in partnership with dairy cooperative Select Milk Producers in 2012, says its milk

goes through a filtration process that's akin to the way skim milk is made. Filters are used to separate the various components in milk. Then, more of the favorable components are added, while the less desirable ones are kept out.

The result is a drink that Fairlife says is lactose free and has 50 percent more protein, 30 percent

more calcium and 50 percent less sugar than regular milk.

The same process is used make Fairlife's Core Power, a drink marketed to athletes that has even more protein and calcium than Fairlife milk.

Sue McCloskey, who developed the system used to make Fairlife with her husband, Mike McCloskey, said Fairlife will be marketed more broadly to women who are the "gatekeepers" for their families' nutritional needs.

MARKET WATCH

Feb. 3, 2015

Dow Jones Industrials	305.36
Nasdaq composite	17,666.40
Standard & Poor's 500	51.05
Russell 2000	4,727.74
	29.18
	2,050.03
	21.47
	1,196.99

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 5)	\$1.1761
Dollar buys (Feb. 5)	€0.8503
British pound (Feb. 5)	\$1.56
Japanese yen (Feb. 5)	¥114.00
South Korean won (Feb. 5)	₩1,064.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.5217
Canada (dollar)	1.2527
China (Yuan)	6.2484
Denmark (Krone)	6.5366
Egypt (Pound)	7.6280
Euro	\$1.1406/0.8758
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.7536
Hungary (Forint)	270.22
Israel (Sheqel)	3.8995
Japan (Yen)	117.51
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2949
Norway (Krone)	7.5620
Philippines (Peso)	44.10
Poland (Zloty)	3.65
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7521
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3461
South Korea (Won)	1,087.49
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9261
Taiwan (Baht)	52.66
Turkey (Lira)	2.4543

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., exchange rates for British pounds in Germany, which with your local military banking facility, commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	2.38

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	46	27	Cldy	Chatanooga	41	30	Pclly	Fort Wayne	15	7	Pclly	Louisville	30	21	Pclly
Akron, Ohio	14	8	Cldy	Chicago	14	-2	Cldy	Fresno	67	45	Pclly	Lubbock	52	20	Pclly
Albany, N.Y.	19	16	Snow	Cincinnati	24	15	Pclly	Goodland	57	18	Pclly	Macon	55	38	Pclly
Albuquerque	59	30	Pclly	Cleveland	14	8	Cldy	Grand Junction	55	32	Cldy	Medford	58	46	Pclly
Allentown, Pa.	25	24	Pclly	Colorado Springs	59	23	Pclly	Great Falls	51	32	Cldy	Memphis	37	27	Pclly
Amarillo	53	20	Pclly	Columbia, S.C.	55	40	Pclly	Green Bay	14	-7	Pclly	Midland-Odessa	52	28	Pclly
Anchorage	17	6	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	53	39	Pclly	Greensboro, N.C.	44	34	Cldy	Midwaukee	13	-2	Cldy
Asheville	36	29	Pclly	Columbus, Ohio	17	11	Pclly	Hartford	57	25	Snow	Milwaukee	13	-2	Cldy
Atlanta	45	36	Pclly	Concord, N.H.	22	21	Cldy	Hartford	57	25	Snow	Mpls-St Paul	18	-2	Pclly
Atlantic City	32	28	Cir	Corpus Christi	56	50	Cldy	Helenia	51	28	Cldy	Missoula	40	25	Cldy
Austin	59	39	Pclly	Dallas-Ft. Worth	43	31	Cldy	Honolulu	79	68	Rain	Montgomery	51	37	Pclly
Baltimore	33	33	Cldy	Dayton	18	10	Pclly	Houston	50	45	Cldy	Nashville	35	26	Cldy
Baton Rouge	54	43	Cldy	Daytona Beach	65	58	Rain	Huntsville	39	31	Pclly	New Orleans	57	46	Cldy
Bilings	48	25	Cldy	Denver	60	23	Pclly	Indianapolis	18	8	Cir	Petersburg	54	46	Cldy
Birmingham	42	33	Snow	Des Moines	19	-5	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	46	37	Pclly	St Thomas	84	74	Cldy
Bismarck	31	7	Snow	Detroit	12	3	Pclly	Jacksonville	60	49	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	56	41	Cldy
Boise	59	39	Pclly	Duluth	17	-8	Cldy	Janeau	21	19	Cir	Salt Lake City	60	37	Pclly
Boston	28	25	Snow	El Paso	64	39	Cldy	Kansas City	25	3	Cir	San Antonio	50	31	Pclly
Bridgeport	29	25	Snow	Elkins	19	17	Snow	Key West	77	71	Rain	San Diego	71	54	Pclly
Brownsville	66	53	Pclly	Erie	11	8	Cldy	Knoxville	35	30	Cldy	San Francisco	62	50	Cldy
Buffalo	11	10	Snow	Eugene	56	46	Rain	Lake Charles	54	45	Cldy	San Jose	55	45	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	12	9	Snow	Evansville	37	17	Cir	Lansing	12	-3	Pclly	Seattle	56	47	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	13	11	Snow	Fairbanks	14	-29	Cir	Las Vegas	73	45	Pclly	Seattle	56	47	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	46	21	Cir	Fargo	24	-1	Pclly	Lexington	27	21	Pclly	Sioux Falls	22	-9	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	56	45	Cldy	Flagstaff	63	25	Cir	Lincoln	25	-9	Pclly	Springfield, Ill.	17	2	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	26	22	Cldy	Flint	12	-2	Cldy	Little Rock	40	28	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	33	10	Cldy
				Fort Smith	42	24	Cir	Los Angeles	73	54	Pclly	Toledo	32	3	Pclly

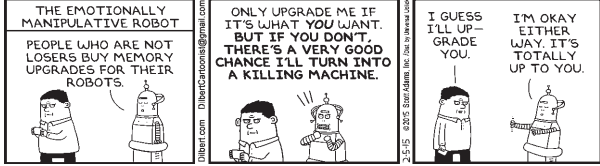
The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 83, Riverside, and Saugus, Calif.
Lo: Tue., -27, Glen Falls, N.Y.

Frazz



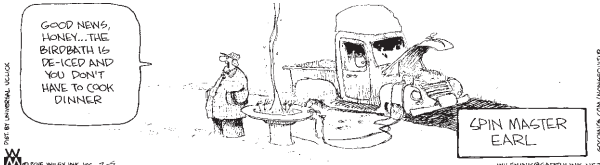
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



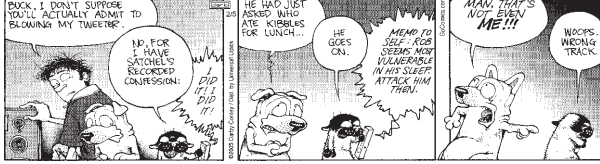
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12						13				14		
15						16				17		
18						19			20	21		
		22				23					24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31						32				33		
34						35				36		
37									39			
						40				41		
45	46					47	48			49		
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

ACROSS

- 1 Monumental
- 5 Fool
- 8 Air pollution
- 12 Catherine — Jones
- 13 Puncturing tool
- 14 Havana's land
- 15 Spool
- 16 Favorable vote
- 17 Sahara-like
- 18 Fractions in Risk
- 20 Fall miserably
- 22 Aegis
- 26 Greek letter
- 29 Consume
- 30 Id counterpart
- 31 New Mexico art colony
- 32 Ostrich's cousin
- 33 Capri, e.g.
- 34 Tin Man's need
- 35 Litter member
- 36 The Plaza, e.g.
- 37 Estimate of future possibilities
- 40 At hand
- 41 Concealed
- 45 "Yeah, right"
- 47 Pi follower
- 49 Nil
- 50 Rounded otto-man
- 51 Listener
- 52 Satanic
- 53 Active

- 54 Pigs' digs
- 55 Trig term
- 25 Yuletide rendition
- 26 On
- 27 Den
- 28 "To thine own self be true" speaker
- 32 Swindles
- 33 Charges electrically
- 35 Cribbage scorer
- 36 Weeder's need
- 38 Moment
- 39 Soap brand
- 42 Jeans maker Strauss
- 43 Activist Brockovich
- 44 Apportion (out)
- 45 Police alert initials
- 46 Old French coin
- 48 Bella Abzug trademark

DOWN

- 1 Old Testament book
- 2 Equal
- 3 Thing
- 4 Baghdad big - wigs
- 5 Permission
- 6 Overwhelm
- 7 Level of achievement
- 8 Meager
- 9 Most obscured
- 10 Japanese sash
- 11 Wander
- 19 Historical period
- 21 Performance
- 23 Lure
- 24 Look lasciviously

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	H	I		C	A	T
F	L	E	D	B	O	N
A	L	A	R	Y	A	N
D	O	U	B	L	E	T
O	P	S		L	A	I
			D	I	S	K
C	L	O	Y		W	A
R	O	Z		A	V	A
T	R	I	P	L	E	T
A	N	O	I	N	T	
G	E	N	U	S		
T	E	E				

2-5

CRYPTOQUIP

RAQEQUQUO J SQUGB DPQP

PVXQ SQUGLQ JP J XQXVON

JGS, RVDBS NVD LJBB IAJI J

S QXVEGL XEQXVEGL?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BIG COOKIE COMPANY FAMOUS FOR NEGOTIATING TRUCES IN TIMES OF HOSTILITY: KEEBLER OF THE PEACE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals A

WORLD



TVBS/AP

A series of images taken from video provided by TVBS show a commercial airplane clipping an elevated roadway just before it careened into a river in Taipei, Taiwan, on Wednesday. At least 25 of the 58 people on board were killed and 15 were injured. Others were still missing.

Scores die in dramatic plane crash in Taiwan

By RALPH JENNINGS
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Rescuers used a crane to hoist a wrecked TransAsia Airways plane from a shallow river in Taiwan's capital late Wednesday as they searched into the night for 18 people missing in a crash that killed at least 25 others.

Flight 235 with 58 people aboard — most of them travelers from China — banked sharply on its side shortly after takeoff from Taipei, clipped a highway bridge and careened into the Keelung River.

Rescuers in rubber rafts pulled 15 injured people from the wreckage during daylight. After dark, they brought in the crane. The death toll was expected to rise once crews were able to search through previously submerged portions of the fuselage, which came to rest a few dozen yards from the shore.

Video clips apparently taken from cars and posted online showed the ATR 72 propjet as it pivoted onto its side while zooming toward a traffic bridge over the river. In one of them, the plane rapidly fills the frame as its now-vertical wing scrapes over the road, hitting a vehicle.

Speculation cited in local media said the pilot may have turned sharply to follow the line of the river to avoid crashing into a high-rise residential area, but Taiwan's aviation authority said it had no evidence of that.

Taiwanese broadcasters repeatedly played a recording of the plane's final contact with the control tower in which the pilot called out "Mayday" three times. The recording offered no direct clues as to why the plane was in distress.

It was the airline's second French-Italian-built ATR 72 to crash in the past year.

Wednesday's flight had taken off at 11:53 a.m. from Taipei's downtown Sungshan Airport en route to the outlying Taiwanese-controlled Kinmen islands. The pilot issued the mayday call shortly after takeoff.

TransAsia director Peter Chen said contact with the plane was lost four minutes after takeoff. He said weather conditions were suitable for flying and the cause of the accident was unknown.

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said it had sent 165 people and eight boats to the riverside rescue scene, joining fire department rescue crews.



WALLY SANTANA/AP

Emergency personnel use a dinghy to bring the body of a passenger to the river shore as others crowd around the plane in Taipei on Wednesday.

3 African nations take the fight to Boko Haram

By HARUNA UMAR
AND MICHELLE FAUL
The Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — Three militaries, using ground troops and warplanes, fought Boko Haram on at least two fronts Wednesday with hundreds of the Islamic fighters reported dead as the conflict took on a growing international perspective.

Chad's army said its troops were attacked Tuesday in Cameroon by Boko Haram, the Nigerian extremist group that has slaughtered and kidnapped civilians and has had the upper hand against Nigeria's military. The Chadian troops' response underscores other African nation's newfound resoluteness to combat what they perceive as a regional threat.

"Our valiant forces responded vigorously. A chase was immediately instituted all the way to their base at Gamboru and Ngala (in Nigeria), where they were completely wiped out," spokesman Col. Azem Bermendoo said on national television Tuesday night.

More than 200 extremists and nine Chadian troops were killed, he said.

On Wednesday, hundreds of Boko Haram fighters driven out of Gamboru crossed the border and attacked Chadian military posts in Fotokol, in far northern Cameroon, residents and military officials said.

Cameroonian troops mobilized to join the Chadians in confronting the invaders, resident journalist Ledoux Blaise Mal Moussa told The Associated Press by telephone. The ongoing battle was confirmed by Cameroonian military officers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to reporters.

Meanwhile, warplanes from Nigeria and jet fighters and helicopter gunships from Chad pursued a bombing campaign that has forced the Islamic fighters from more than a dozen towns in northeast Nigeria where Boko Haram declared an Islamic caliphate in August.

This week's military actions mark the biggest offensive against Boko Haram in more than five-year history.

African Union officials were meeting Wednesday in Cameroon to finalize a mandate for a 7,500-strong multinational force from Nigeria and its four francophone neighbors to confront the extremists who in recent months have seized more than 130 towns and villages. Those population centers lie in three of Nigeria's northeastern states bordering Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Boko Haram has held many of the towns for as long as six months.

The Nigerian jets had started their bombing runs on Monday in Nigeria's Sambisa Forest, where the extremists have camps and first took nearly 300 kidnapped schoolgirls last April, witnesses said.

Hospital, schools shelled in Ukrainian rebel stronghold

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Heavy shelling in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine on Wednesday afternoon killed at least five people and damaged a hospital, six schools and five kindergartens, local officials said.

The fighting between Russia-backed separatists and government troops in eastern Ukraine resumed in January after a month

of relative calm, killing more than 200 people in the past three weeks, according to the United Nations. The city hall in Donetsk said the number of casualties from Wednesday's shelling in the west part of Donetsk in the early afternoon was not immediately established but the rebel-run Donetsk News Agency reported five killed inside and near the hospital in Tekstilshchik district.

An Associated Press reporter

who arrived on the scene shortly after the attack found one body covered by a sheet on the ground several yards from the building, near a crater from a projectile. The hospital was damaged by shrapnel and windows were shattered.

"There were six or seven explosions," said Vladimir Oryol who witnessed the attack. "We were standing outside the nightclub, we fell on the ground, people were screaming. In fact it was very

scary and horrible."

Separatist official Eduard Basurin told reporters that four civilians have been killed in the past days before Wednesday's shelling.

In the wake of the shelling, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini called for the withdrawal of heavy weaponry from Ukrainian cities and a truce for at least three days to ensure the safe evacuation of civilians from the conflict zone.

NATION



‘I was almost shaken. This is almost too wild.’



Roger Watson, top, and David Brown served their country during the Vietnam War in 1968.



PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA, DETROIT FREE PRESS/TNS

Vietnam veterans Roger Watson, left, and David Brown, both of Berkley, Mich., have been backyard neighbors for 18 years but neither realized until recently that they were good friends while serving in the Vietnam War. Both are from the same Detroit neighborhood, were drafted on the same day, trained in Fort Hood in Texas and served in the same company.

Old Army buddies were neighbors, and didn't know it

By CHRISTINA HALL
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT

Dave Brown had scoured the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington looking for his Army basic training buddy Roger Watson's name.

While in Vietnam in 1968, Brown ran into someone from Watson's company and heard that his friend had been injured.

The word was true — Watson was shot March 8, 1968, seven months into his tour, losing a kidney and 3 feet of small intestine and suffering damage to his liver.

But Brown never found out if his friend lived or died.

The two men — who came from the same northwest Detroit neighborhood, were drafted on the same day in 1966, trained together at Fort Hood in Texas, served in the 9th Infantry and were combat engineer demolition specialists — never saw or heard from each other again.

Until right before last Halloween.

That's when the two men — more than 40 years older than the last time they saw each other as young soldiers in training — walked across their kitty-cornered backyards in Detroit and met at the chain-link fence.

For 18 years, the two men had lived nearly back to back and didn't even know it.

Weeks after reuniting, they still couldn't believe it.

"I was absolutely delighted," Brown, 68, a retired surveyor, said of learning about Watson, grateful his friend survived. "I wondered about you for 40 years."

"I always wondered what happened to you," Watson, 67, a retired supervisor with the Michigan Department of Corrections, told Brown as the two sat in Watson's home recently, sipping coffee, sharing war stories and telling their amazing reunion story.

That story is a story in itself.

And it's thanks to Brown's wife, Peggy, who has been neighborly with Watson because of their common interest in birds.

Peggy Brown was taking a walk one day when she noticed the Purple Heart license plate on Watson's car and mentioned it to her husband. On another occasion, she noticed the 9th Infantry Vietnam Veterans cap in the rear window of the car.

Then, on Oct. 27, the revelation happened — during email exchanges between her and Watson that began about a picture of a hawk.

"On a different subject my husband Dave was in the ninth infantry 15th combat engineers' 1967-1968 Vietnam. Wondering if you were there at that time. I

saw that you were in the ninth," she wrote Watson.

The back-and-forth emails that followed unraveled answers to questions pondered by both men for four decades.

"Small World!!!!!!" and "Wow!!!!" and questions, such as whether Watson's nickname was Bunny (it wasn't) and if Dave Brown's hair was blond (it was), were sprinkled through the evolving exchanges.

"I think we may have volunteered together," Watson wrote Peggy Brown. "Please don't believe any stories he may tell about me! Also let him know I've changed a lot since basic."

After looking at photos of the men as soldiers via email that day, Peggy Brown wrote: "This has to be coincidence of the century. Dave cannot believe all this, and we've been here for 18 years in Berkley (a Detroit neighborhood). What are the odds?"

That's been the reaction of the men, their wives and the friends they've told since the long-lost Army buddies found each other again.

It takes one little piece of information to put the whole thing together," said Watson's wife, Edie.

Roger Watson said he saw only glimpses of his neighbor from a distance now and then through the years.

When the foliage is out, both couples said, it's impossible to see into each others' backyards. Roger Watson said he simply was friends with Peggy Brown "over the fence" as both of them fed the birds.

"I was almost shaken," Roger Watson said of learning his Army buddy was his neighbor. "This is almost too wild."

"This is incredible," Dave Brown said. "It's amazing. So much time has elapsed."

But to hear the men — now longtime husbands, fathers and grandfathers — talk recently, it was like no time had passed at all.

They recalled being drafted, training in Texas — running everywhere, cleaning the barracks and spit-shining shoes — and leaving for life-changing experiences in Vietnam while their hometown of Detroit was experiencing its own life-changing event in the 1967 riot.

Watson talked about when he was shot; Brown recalled the first body he encountered as a soldier.

The experiences are among many etched in the memories of both men — memories neither can shed, just like the smell of diesel or the sound of a helicopter.

Now, they have another memory — discovering each other.

"It's sort of amazing we've been neighbors this long," Watson said.

Brown agreed.

"It's just great to see him alive," he said. "It makes me happy."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man pleads guilty to selling fake urine

PA PITTSBURGH — An Ohio man who sold fake urine meant to help people pass workplace drug tests and misbranded other substances to the federal government says he drugs has pleaded guilty in Pittsburgh.

David Neal, 61, of Middletown, pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to defraud the United States and to introduction of misbranded drugs into interstate commerce. He faces as many as six years in prison.

Prosecutors say Neal's products, including "Magnum Unisex Synthetic Urine," were designed to thwart tests overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Trucks carrying frozen chicken, bees collide

CA INDIO — A big-rig hauling frozen chicken collided with a truck carrying bees in southern California, igniting a fireball that quickly cooked the chicken.

The truck with the chickens burst into flames on Interstate 10 near Palm Springs and was incinerated, but the driver escaped with minor injuries.

The driver hauling the bees was not hurt, although highway patrol officers on the scene reported bees buzzing everywhere.

Photos, meanwhile, showed chunks of blackened, highway-roasted chicken.

Suspect's snoring gives him away to police

FL PENSACOLA — Officials said a Florida man suspected of stealing a car took off on foot from a traffic stop and briefly eluded deputies while he grumbled a nap under a nearby trailer.

The Pensacola News Journal reported that deputies followed the sound of



Barbour

Kevin Lee Barbour's snoring — described as a "snoring wild boar" — to discover him Sunday night in Santa Rosa County. Officials said deputies tried to stop Barbour, 37, of Pensacola, after noticing his vehicle didn't have tag lights. They said that when the deputy activated his siren, Barbour pulled off the road and ran.

The deputy followed but lost sight of Barbour.

Deputy quits over 'no cowboy' dress code

WY PINEDALE — The new sheriff of Sublette County has banned his deputies from wearing cowboy hats and cowboy boots.

Sheriff Stephen Haskell, who has worked in law enforcement for three years, is requiring deputies to wear black trousers, a

THE CENSUS

30

The number of bats that disrupted a trial at the Sevier County Courthouse in De Queen, Ark. The *Texarkana Gazette* reported that several people ducked, screamed and ran from the courtroom last week as the bats swooped in. One bat allegedly tried to bite a deputy who caught it and held it by the wings while onlookers took photos. The bats calmed down after the lights were turned off and court was moved elsewhere. Circuit Judge Tom Cooper said hundreds of bats live at the courthouse and that their excrement is everywhere.



ERIC GAY/AP

Too close for comfort

Lauren Cachaux grimaces as she poses with a rattlesnake at the Texas State Capitol in Austin on Monday. Members of the Sweetwater Jaycees brought rattlesnakes to promote their annual rattlesnake roundup and to help educate visitors.

tan shirt, black boots and a black ball cap.

The change in dress code prompted Deputy Gene Bryson to retire last Friday after 28 years with the department and some 40 years overall in law enforcement.

Bryson, 70, wore a brown cowboy hat, brown cowboy boots and a summertime leather vest or wintertime wool vest.

Man impersonating cop pulls over real officer

VA MANASSAS — Police said a northern Virginia man was impersonating an officer when he pulled over a car being driven by a real cop.

Prince William County Police said Shawn Michael Robinson, 27, of Alexandria, pulled over an off-duty officer on Jan. 29.

Police said Robinson was driving a white Crown Victoria close behind the off-duty officer's car around 1 a.m. Police said the real officer pulled over when Robin-

son turned on a spotlight attached to his car.

Instead of getting out, police said Robinson pulled alongside the officer's car. Police said Robinson sped off when the officer identified himself. Robinson later turned himself in.

Public radio apologizes for performer's cursing

MN ST. PAUL — A performance on the nationally broadcast "Prairie Home Companion" show prompted an apology by Minnesota Public Radio and a warning to member stations about some profane words from a country songwriter.

Robbie Fulks performed live Saturday evening at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul and included a couple of blasphemous words in his song.

MPR issued a language advisory to 670 stations across the country before the show was broadcast Sunday.

More than \$55 million lost in unpaid tickets

DC WASHINGTON — The District of Columbia lost more than \$55 million in outstanding traffic and parking tickets in fiscal 2014.

That's according to figures released Monday by AAA Mid-Atlantic.

The agency said most of the lost revenue comes from 278,000 unpaid parking tickets totaling nearly \$31 million. More than \$18 million went unpaid from photo enforcement tickets, and nearly \$6 million was lost from traffic violations.

Baby born on roadside as mom goes into labor

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Police said a pregnant Utah woman driving herself to the hospital gave birth to a healthy, nearly 10-pound baby boy on the side of an interstate highway Saturday.

Authorities said 32-year-old Devi Mariah Ostler's labor became overwhelming shortly after she left the North Ogden area and she called 911.

Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Jalaine Hawkes said a state trooper and a local police chief helped her give birth to a 9.9-pound baby boy in her car within minutes of their arrival.

Schools chief lifts junk food ban for fundraisers

SC GREENVILLE — South Carolina schools can resume selling junk food to raise money on a limited basis.

Multiple media outlets reported that Education Superintendent Molly Spearman last month lifted a complete ban on selling unhealthy snacks in schools.

The prohibition started last July under the Smart Snacks provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

From wire reports

FACES

GUESSING THE GRAMMYS

By MESFIN FEKADU and NEKESA MUMBI MOODY/The Associated Press

Will Beyoncé reign as queen of the Grammys, or will the pop diva be dethroned by newcomer Sam Smith? The AP makes educated guesses at who will dominate music's biggest night, when Smith, Beyoncé and Pharrell are the top contenders with six nominations apiece. The Grammy Awards will air on Feb. 9 on AFN-Prime. Here's how we think the event will go:

Album of the year

NOMINEES: "Morning Phase," Beck; "Beyoncé," Beyoncé; "X," Ed Sheeran; "In the Lonely Hour," Sam Smith; "G I R L," Pharrell.

FEKADU: We all thought "Beyoncé" was a shoo-in for this award because of its epic release and because Adele didn't drop an album. But then enters Adele's baby brother: soulful British crooner Sam Smith, singing his big ballad, sad love songs, releasing back-to-back radio hits and going platinum. Smith may share some of Beyoncé's fans now, but come Sunday, the Beyhive will turn on him.

MOODY: As a card-carrying member of the Beyhive, I can assure you all the ire will be at the Recording Academy. Look, Sam Smith had a gorgeous album that tugged at our heartstrings and he is the real deal. But Beyoncé not only had the best album of the year (said in Kanye voice), she turned the industry on its head and truly innovated with her surprise release and the visual album. That should count for a Grammy win. But the Grammys will likely be enamored by ... Sam Smith, marveling that he does soul music so authentically and overlooking a queen who has mastered it, and pop music in general, for almost two decades. And that will be a travesty.

Record of the year

NOMINEES: "Fancy," Iggy Azalea featuring Charli XCX; "Chandelier," Sia; "Stay With Me (Darkchild Version)," Sam Smith; "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift; "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor.

MOODY: "Fancy" and "All About That Bass" seem to be the obligatory "yes we're in touch with the Snapchat generation" nomination — nice nod to the kids, but they won't win. It's between Taylor, Sia and Sam; Sia's song didn't resonate with as many people and Taylor's may be too catchy for her own good. Look for Sam to grab this category too. It's a smoldering performance too hot not to reward.

FEKADU: Normally I would say a song like "Bass," despite being one of the year's biggest hits, wouldn't win, mainly because it's from a new artist. But, at the same time, how could you imagine 2014 without the addictive track? And because Trainor is a skilled songwriter, followed the song up with another hit and No. 1 album, it's only fitting she walk away with the win.

Song of the year (songwriter's award)

NOMINEES: "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor and Kevin Kadish; "Chandelier," Sia and Jesse Shatkin; "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift, Max Martin and Shellback; "Stay With Me (Darkchild Version)," Sam Smith, James Napier and William Phillips; "Take Me to Church," Hozier.

FEKADU: Tay Tay and Trainor's songs seem too playful to win this award. Hozier's hit may be too new for voters, leaving Sia and Sam. Sia deserves this award, not only for "Chandelier," but for writing songs for female pop stars. ... Good thing she's not into showing her face these days because Smith will take the win here.

MOODY: Hmmm ... I'm torn. I agree

Sam Smith has a strong shot at winning — could you look in those doleful eyes and say no? But since this is a songwriting award, methinks the Recording Academy will take this opportunity to reward Sia for not only "Chandelier," but her years of masterful songwriting for herself and others, including Beyoncé's "Pretty Hurts."

Best new artist

NOMINEES: Iggy Azalea; Bastille; Brandy Clark; Haim; Sam Smith.

MOODY: I mean, is this even a competition? Sam Smith.

FEKADU: Who dat? Who dat? Not I to the G-G-Y. Sam Smith will take this one.

Rock album

NOMINEES: "Ryan Adams," Ryan Adams; "Morning Phase," Beck; "Turn Blue," The Black Keys; "Hypnotic Eye," Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers; "Songs of Innocence," U2.

MOODY: I'm guessing Grammy voters are iTunes users and perhaps didn't appreciate that free U2 gift of music either. But I also think they love all things Beck, and Beck — who won't win in the mainstream category — gets his trophy here.

FEKADU: I wanted to think Beck would win because he's nominated for album of the year, but I think the Grammys will reward Petty for an outstanding year, which included a No. 1 album on the pop charts.

Pop solo performance

NOMINEES: "All of Me (Live)," John Legend; "Chandelier," Sia; "Stay With Me (Darkchild Version)," Sam Smith; "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift; "Happy (Live)," Pharrell.

FEKADU: Pharrell's No. 1 hit was released too early for eligibility and voters didn't care enough to nominate its live version for record of the year. There's no way he's losing this honor, though.

MOODY: I think that the academy will feel like they gave Pharrell all the love he needed last year; this year, the Grammy darling is Sam Smith, and he's got this on lock.

R&B performance

NOMINEES: "Drunk In Love," Beyoncé featuring Jay Z; "New Flame" Chris Brown featuring Usher and Rick Ross; "It's Your World," Jennifer Hudson featuring R. Kelly; "Like This," Ledisi; "Good Kisses," Usher.

FEKADU: Yonce all on his mouth like liquor.

MOODY: Even with the cringe-worthy Anna Mae reference, Jayoncé wins this.

Rap song

NOMINEES: "Anaconda," Nicki Minaj; "Bound 2," Kanye West featuring Charlie Wilson; "I," Kendrick Lamar; "My Dern Boyz," Wiz Khalifa; "O to 100 / The Catch Up," Drake.

MOODY: Kanye West's rants against the Grammys probably won't help him here, and voters probably won't want to reward the song best remembered for him simulating sex with wife Kim Kardashian on a motorcycle. Kendrick Lamar, on the other hand, has an uplifting song and Grammy voters probably remember how he got robbed last year when Macklemore inexplicably won over him. They'll make it up to him this year.

FEKADU: Kendrick Lamar is under the India Arie effect: You lose all seven in your debut year, but you win two the following year. Poetic justice, indeed!

Country album

NOMINEES: "Riser," Dierks Bentley; "The Outsiders," Eric Church; "12 Stories," Brandy Clark; "Platinum," Miranda Lambert; "The Way I'm Livin'," Lee Ann Womack.

FEKADU: Women have it tough in country music, so it's great to see the Recording Academy acknowledge three wonderful female voices in this category. Lambert, though, has dominated all of the country awards shows — and there are plenty of them (too many, actually) — and she will do the same at the Grammys. It is shame "Platinum" wasn't nominated for album of the year.

MOODY: Eh, things might not be ideal but women are coming on strong and giving the boys a run for their money, and Lambert is a great example. She likely will dominate here, but I wouldn't be surprised if Clark sneaks up and grabs it from her — her trailblazing as one of the few out gay people in country may win her a few admirers, and perhaps even a trophy.



Harper Lee

New book could also mean a movie sequel for 'Mockingbird'

From The Associated Press

The movie version of "To Kill a Mockingbird" is the rare adaptation as beloved as its source material.

So when Harper Lee and her publisher announced Tuesday that this summer they'll release the 88-year-old author's second book, "Go Set the Watchmen," a kind of sequel to "To Kill a Mockingbird," the shockwaves were felt almost as much in Hollywood as they were in the book world. The movies, after all, love a sequel. And rare is the chance to follow up one of the most iconic American films, half a century later. If Lee agrees to let the movie rights of her new book, it can be expected to be one of the most eagerly sought novels for optioning to the big screen. Particularly since Lee said Tuesday that "Go Set the Watchmen" follows her young heroine, Scout, into adulthood, it's sure to be feverishly pursued by producers. It's likely to spark a bidding war well before it lands on book shelves July 14.

Such an opportunity could draw in a host of high-profile producers. Oprah Winfrey, for one, has called "To Kill a Mockingbird" her favorite book. (In a statement Tuesday, she said: "I couldn't be happier if my name was Scout.")

Starring Gregory Peck and featuring a young Robert Duvall as Boo Radley, "To Kill a Mockingbird" has regularly been ranked among the greatest American movies. It won three Oscars, including best actor for Peck and best-adapted screenplay for Horton Foote. In 1995, it was added to the National Film Registry, and in 2003 the American Film Institute listed Peck's Atticus Finch as the greatest movie hero of the 20th century.

Other news

■ An attorney representing Bobby Brown says the entertainer's daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown, isn't and never has been married. Brown's attorney Christopher Brown released a statement Tuesday disputing reports that Bobbi Kristina Brown is married to Nick Gordon. Bobbi Kristina Brown has been hospitalized since Jan. 31 after being found unresponsive in a bathtub at a suburban Atlanta townhome. Gordon and a friend called police.

■ Three E.B. White classics will soon be available on the digital screen. HarperCollins announced Wednesday that "Charlotte's Web," "Stuart Little" and "The Trumpet of the Swan" can be purchased as e-books starting March 17.

Beyonce, Sam Smith,
Sia and Pharrell
among those who
could be winners

WORLD



Aniceto Rodrigo, 78, Diablo Mayor, or "greater devil," prepares for the "Enladrada" festival in Almonacid Del Marquesado, Spain, on Tuesday.

Spanish town celebrates twin devil festivals

The Associated Press

ALMONACID DEL MARQUESADO, Spain — If you live in the central Spanish town of Almonacid del Marquesado, the devil you see may be the devil you know.

The town has celebrated the "Enladrada" (Brotherhood of the Devils) festivals each Feb. 2-3 since at least medieval times.

In it, men from the town dress up as devil-type characters in colorful jumpsuits and red miter hats. Donning large, heavy copper cowbells around their waists, which clang incessantly, they walk, dance and jump through the town's winding streets and visit the cemetery.

The two holidays are celebrated in similar fashion although their origins are different.

The Feb. 2 procession, the "Candelaria," represents the Virgin Mary presenting the baby Jesus to authorities in the temple 40 days after Christmas. The protocol is believed to have caused her some embarrassment and the accompanying bell-clanging characters are thought to be a way of diverting the public's attention.

The Feb. 3 procession commemorates the day of Saint Blas. According to a local legend, town shepherds found a statue of the saint and then won a competition with a nearby town to keep the effigy, ringing the bells of their animals in celebration.



Above: A member of the "Enladrada" brotherhood walks through the cemetery after paying respect to deceased fellow believers and relatives in Almonacid Del Marquesado, Spain, on Monday.

Left: The Brotherhood of the Devils procession, held each Feb. 3, commemorates the day of Saint Blas.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/AP

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OPINION

Terrorists seek to turn clock way back

By PHILIP KENNICOTT

The Washington Post

Perhaps it doesn't matter if you look. The latest atrocity from the Islamic State, the immolation of a captured Jordanian pilot, caught on camera and distributed to an almost universally horrified planet, will do its basic work regardless of whether anyone watches it. This is about triggering the imagination, compelling us to think and see the world through an Iron Age filter. There is no subtle message, perhaps no message at all, in its horrific cruelty. Its purpose is simply to make us more tribal.

As with so much of the ugliness perpetrated by the Islamic State, what's old is new. Read Dabiq, the slick online magazine published by the Islamic State, and you'll encounter a strange, temporal whiplash. It is a catalog of atavistic brutalities and yet strangely unimaginative in its celebration of violence. This isn't about mankind's malleable ability to invent new forms of murder; it's about reanimating our oldest, and collectively shared, habits of barbarism. When we learn that they have stoned an adulterer to death, or pushed a homosexual man off a high wall, we may wonder, "What will they think of next?" But the Islamic State is not innovative in its depravations. Its thugs simply reach into the museum of human-made misery and pull out something at once horribly familiar, and terribly alien.

This is certainly true of its use of beheading. Walk through any great gallery of old master paintings and behold a scene as ordinary as the gold frames and marble floors. Perseus holds the head of Medusa; Judith sears through the neck of Holofernes; Salome leers lasciviously at the face of John the Baptist; David displays his trophy from the giant Goliath. Behead-

ing is a shared tradition, a cross-cultural possession. The French practiced it until 1877, when the guillotine blade fell for the last time on the neck of a Tunisian immigrant charged with rape and murder.

We may have banished beheading as an acceptable form of execution in the West, but we still live with the historical and iconographic remains of its widespread use. And yet artistic images of bloody heads and gore-stained swords never feel quite real, and don't inspire much horror anymore. They are safely sewn up in a legendary past, disconnected from our own seemingly civilized present. The Islamic State wants to erase that distance, not just to horrify us, but to drag us back with them. The goal may be more ambitious than merely outraging the moral sensibilities of the world, or proving its own bottomless reserves of destructive will. Rather, the Islamic State wants to reconnect us to our own not-so-distant past, when we were more than capable of similar acts of barbarism.

Beheading is particularly case. The United States still uses execution as an instrument of state power, but we have for the most part moved to clinical, medicalized forms of judicial killing. Beheading, as practiced by the Islamic State, is intimate, hand-on, manual, and visceral. It is the stomach to watch video of any of the many beheadings to emerge from Syria and Iraq in the past few years, then look up Rembrandt's 1635 "The Sacrifice of Isaac," held by the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. Beheading looks a lot like this excruciating game of divine and demonic death: One body is bound and defenseless, the other straining to the task, grasping and pulling at the head and face of another living being as if it were an animal. But of course in the real-life beheadings, there is no angel to intervene, the knife never falls

out of the executioner's hand and the grisly work proceeds to completion in under a minute.

The Islamic State has reacquainted us with the pure physicality of killing, by-passing our carefully constructed defenses — media protocols, government euphemism — that have kept the effects of war and torture at a discreet and safe distance. Merely the thought of a man being burned alive overwhelms our best efforts to edit savagery out of the imaginable world.

If the violence of the Islamic State often feels disconcertingly Old Testament, that's no accident. By re-enacting the appalling excesses of what we would call biblical violence in the modern world, it has issued us an invitation, a chance to return to what it posits as the basic moral condition governing men. It is a family reunion of sorts, a chance to relive the fratricides and infanticides and genocides that give our shared religious narratives their bloody vigor, a chance to live together under the most blunt and unimaginative law ever promulgated: an eye for an eye.

With the recent killings of two Japanese hostages and the burning alive of Lt. Muth al-Kassabeh, there are reports that the Islamic State is running out of hostages or, at least, running low on foreign hostages whose deaths would galvanize world reaction. Have they miscalculated? Have they failed to leverage any advantage? Have they simply turned the world against them? But those may be irrelevant questions. These killings have already done much of what they were likely meant to do. They have reset the clock, rekindled tribal thinking and, worst of all, implanted visceral ideas about what a satisfying revenge would look like.

Philip Kennicott is The Washington Post's art and architecture critic.

Obama joins Merkel's wait for Putin to fall

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY

Bloomberg News

President Barack Obama has joined German Chancellor Angela Merkel in saying that the West should take a patient, long-term approach to dealing with Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The real message to Kiev: You're on your own in fighting pro-Russian rebels and Russian troops.

Obama, in an interview on Sunday with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, said the West's limited arsenal prevented it from taking on Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Given the size of the Russian military, given the fact that Ukraine is not a NATO country, and so as a consequence there are clear limits in terms of what we would do militarily, Mr. Putin has not been stopped so far," he said. His words echoed those of Merkel, who said in November that the only way the West could use was its economic strength, which could work only over time.

"One should not lose hope too quickly," she said. "For 40 years we heard radio broadcasts about the imminent collapse" of East Germany, "and after 40 years, when everyone had lost hope, it happened."

Obama and Merkel also said from Ukraine and from a group of retired U.S. officials for the West to supply weapons to the Ukrainian army, now engaged in some of the toughest fighting since the conflict in the country's eastern regions began. Merkel said Germany would not arm Ukraine even if the U.S. changes its mind. And that remains for the U.S., according to Obama, is to put more pressure on Russia,

bolster Ukraine's reform efforts and protect European allies. As for Putin, Obama is "not wildly optimistic" that his attitude is going to change, because his behavior appears to be boosting his popularity in Russia. "Perhaps over time he changes his mind."

So the two most powerful Western leaders appear to be in complete agreement about, figuratively speaking, sitting on the riverbank and waiting for Putin's corpse to float by. The West is concerned about containing Russia and preventing it from attacking some obvious targets such as Latvia and Estonia, which are both members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and have large Russian minorities, but it sees no urgency about helping Ukraine.

Meanwhile, the situation in Ukraine is deteriorating. For the last four days, Russia-backed separatists have been trying to encircle about 7,000 Ukrainian troops around the railroad junction of Debaltsevo. The Ukrainian military has given up on a few small settlements but has held on to Debaltsevo and a path out of the potential cauldron. That could change at any moment if Russian regulars enter the fray. Last summer, their interference crushed Ukrainian resistance near Ilovaysk and forced Kiev to seek a peace agreement.

Even if Western financial help arrives in time to save Ukraine from the ignominy of seeing its international reserves run out — they now cover about five weeks of imports, and the International Monetary Fund is working at its own pace on providing a more long-term debt package to Ukraine — the accretion of Russian troops resolved only by Ukraine and Russia, the

guiding force behind the rebel attack. No matter what happens in eastern Ukraine and what new red lines Putin crosses there, the West is staying out on the thin pretext that Ukraine is not a NATO member — though neither was Kuwait when Iraq invaded in the early 1990s, and the U.S. did send troops there.

"We have simply been abandoned without promised protection," Oleksandr Kishch, an adviser to Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, wrote Monday on Inforsist.org, accusing the "failed, brainless leaders of the West" of giving up Ukraine, and with it all Europe, to an "Asian aggressor." "Yes, the civilized one also make mistakes," he added bitterly. "Their brains sometimes clog up with fat from satiety and overeating."

That is not yet Ukraine's official attitude, but those fighting in the east are understandably bitter about all the supportive Western rhetoric not materializing into weapons and reinforcements. They are certainly not interested in hearing stories about how economic pressure may someday bring Putin low. The long-game strategies of Merkel and Obama are likely to give rise to an anti-Western backlash in Ukraine. If the U.S. and Europe are not willing to provide any meaningful support to Ukraine's fight, they should work harder at searching for a negotiated solution and at bringing boy Kiev and Moscow to the table. Otherwise, Ukraine may be lost to the Western world.

Leonid Bershidsky, a Bloomberg View contributor, is a Berlin-based writer.

OPINION

Forgoing vaccines is no shot in arm for liberty

By KATHLEEN PARKER

Flashback: Galileo is under house arrest pondering the unyielding ignorance of The Church for refusing to consider his heliocentric proposition that the Earth circled the sun.

We find this historical anecdote preposterous today, but people were persecuted for lesser heresies in Galileo's time. Though we are now centuries removed from such dim-witted, we find ourselves in a not-dissimilar pickle.

After decades free of many crippling and deadly diseases thanks to the miracle of vaccines, some people are skeptical. Parents fearful of side effects, often on account of anecdotal evidence or discredited studies, are reluctant to vaccinate their children.

Marin County, Calif., a liberal enclave famous for its beauty and wealth, seems to be the epicenter of the debate. Many have opted out of vaccinations as part of their evolution into honeybees. Some see vaccines as a conspiracy of Big Pharma. Elsewhere, especially in the South, people are simply distrustful of authority, especially government.

The latter group is familiarly known as the GOP base. They tend to be litmus-test conservatives on social issues and place Scripture above science.

On the bright side, the far left and the far right finally have found common ground. They'd rather let their children risk illness — and their country an epidemic — than contaminate their offspring's pristine bodies with antibiotics.

Oh, to fly to that picnic!
One wonders what public tortures Jonas Salk might have encountered had he presented his polio vaccine today rather than

in the 1950s. One crucial difference is that polio left visual reminders of its assault on the human body. The 1952 epidemic affected nearly 58,000 people, more than 3,100 of whom died and some 21,000 of whom were left disabled.

Most Americans under the age of 50, including doctors, have never seen measles. Now, after decades of being a virtually measles-free nation, we have 100 cases spread across at least 14 states and the potential for more as stubborn purists resist common sense. Science and experience overwhelmingly support vaccines, and the single study to the contrary, suggesting a connection to autism, has been thoroughly discredited.

Naturally, into this tar pit, the GOP presidential field has fallen. Or rather, been pushed. Asked about the vaccine controversy, both New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul have handed the media a fresh bone to gnaw.

Christie initially said that parents "need to have some measure of choice," though he later clarified by saying that children should be vaccinated against measles. Paul told radio host Laura Ingraham, "While I think it's a good idea to take the vaccine, I think that's a personal decision for individuals."

Neither common standing alone is objectionable. Barring a time-release patch from God, vaccines are the best we've got. Eventually, most parents come around to this conclusion, despite reluctance to inject their children with a tiny dose of the virus. They do it because the alternative is unthinkable.

While parents' rights should always be protected in the absence of harm to their children, the public health of the nation also has to be protected. Individual rights



are justifiably modified when the exercise of those rights adversely affects others. Smoking is a textbook example of this premise.

Preserving individual freedom is one of the compelling forces of modern conservatism and remains its most attractive feature. Thus, Republican candidates are faced with a daunting balancing act of confirming to primary voters their allegiance to the principle while also signaling to the rest of the country that they're not that foolish.

These conundrums are not new. The conflict between individual rights and the greater good is the fundamental argument in a democracy, the success of which relies upon an educated rather than only radio-

informed citizenry, as well as leaders willing to defend science over ideology.

Aspiring presidents would do well to articulate these conflicts with compassion, without condescension or pandering — while explaining why, in this case, vaccines are the right choice. For starters they might quote Thomas Frieden, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

"Study after study has shown that there are no negative long-term consequences. And the more kids who are not vaccinated, the more they're at risk and the more they put their neighbors' kids at risk as well."

There. That didn't hurt much, did it?

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Refusing to vaccinate isn't just a personal choice

By JUSTIN FOX

Bloomberg News

Should you get your kids vaccinated against measles? Of course you should.

You shouldn't do this, however, because it is risk-free. Drugs can have side effects, and although those documented for the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine are either minor or extremely rare, the risk of something bad happening isn't zero. And although the belief in a link between the MMR vaccine and autism is a superstition foisted upon the world by a shrewd British doctor who has since lost his medical license, there may well be links between the vaccine and other maladies that we just don't know about yet.

Such is life. The medical consensus is always shifting; risk can't be completely eliminated. It's just that, when you weigh the real and hypothetical risks of the MMR vaccine against the known risks posed by actual measles — ear infections, pneumonia, convulsions, brain inflammation, brain damage, death — they don't amount to much.

For a long time, the risk of encountering measles in the U.S. didn't amount to much either. Thanks to near-universal vaccination, measles and other once-deadly childhood diseases had become vanishingly rare. I met a pediatrician 15 years ago who had refused to let her kids go through the standard childhood vaccination cycle. She knew perfectly well that if lots of people followed her example it would be danger-

I'm pretty sure that Rand Paul wouldn't argue that anybody has a right to get hammered and then get behind the wheel.

ous. But she also knew from her work as a doctor that everybody else in her community vaccinated their kids, so she figured hers were safe.

She was, in economic terms, a free rider — taking advantage of a public good to which she didn't contribute. It was a terribly selfish choice, but it was also arguably a rational one. At least, it was back then.

Now, however, thanks to the rise of vaccine skepticism, the risk of encountering several of these childhood diseases in the U.S. has been growing, especially if you live in the hotbed of unconventional belief that is Southern California. Last September, The Hollywood Reporter documented a whooping cough epidemic — the worst since the 1940s — in the affluent neighborhoods of West Los Angeles. This month, a measles epidemic centered around Disneyland has hit the region.

When these diseases run rampant, even those who have been vaccinated aren't entirely safe. Vaccines succeed in large part because they make diseases so rare, not because everyone who gets one becomes completely immune. When vaccination rates fall, nonvaccinators not only expose

their children to greater risk but they endanger lots of other people too, including people whose parents did choose to vaccinate them.

Every disease has a different "basic reproduction number," or R0, a measure of how contagious it is. The formula to determine what percentage of the population needs to be vaccinated to stop a disease from spreading is $1 - 1/R0$. For influenza, R0 is two or three, meaning that a vaccination rate of 50 percent might be enough to stop its spread. For the Ebola virus it could be as low as 1.5, meaning that only 33 percent would have to be vaccinated — if there were a vaccine.

Measles is among the most infectious of diseases, with an R0 of between 12 and 15. At least 92 percent of the population has to be vaccinated to ensure that it doesn't spread. The national MMR vaccination rate in the U.S. is, remarkably enough, 91.9 percent. There are communities, though, where the rate is much, much lower: Among the Ohio Amish, for example, who suffered the worst measles outbreak in decades last year, and also, as already noted, in certain nice neighborhoods in and around L.A. Such clusters of the nonvaccinated give harbor to the disease and help it spread. And if polling results on vaccination beliefs by age hold up, we're about to see a lot more such clusters as the millennials have kids.

This is what's so problematic about Monday's assertions, made and then retraced by Republican Gov. Chris Christie, of New Jersey, and made and so far stuck to by Sen.

Rand Paul, R-Ky., that vaccination should be a matter of parental choice. This view presumes that it's a choice that affects no one outside your family. When you're the only family in town choosing to forgo an MMR vaccine, that's close to being true. As soon as vaccine refusal begins to catch on, though, it not only increases the risk to your own children but begins to put others at risk as well. It becomes a choice along the lines of choosing to drive while drunk or go around the neighborhood setting houses on fire.

With drunk driving and arson, we all get that they are unacceptable. For one thing, there's a direct, visible connection between the act and the damage it causes. It took a few decades to convince society on drunk driving, and even now lots of people still do it. But I'm pretty sure that Rand Paul wouldn't argue that anybody has a right to get hammered and then get behind the wheel.

With vaccinations, the culpability is more probabilistic, and we tend not to deal well with probabilities in public debates in the U.S. During the rise of vaccinations, most people had memories of the suffering that childhood diseases could wreak. Now those memories are gone, and it's a matter of understanding percentages and trusting experimental data. Which means that Americans may have to get a lot more firsthand experience of measles epidemics before the vaccine skeptics (and their political enablers) catch a clue.

Justin Fox is a Bloomberg View columnist writing about business.



VIETNAM

AT

50



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NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	13	16	.473	
Brooklyn	19	28	.404	13
Boston	17	27	.382	16
Philadelphia	11	39	.220	22½
New York	13	29	.204	23
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	40	9	.816	—
Washington	31	18	.633	9
Charlotte	21	27	.438	18½
Memphis	17	27	.384	19
Orlando	15	26	.364	26
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	30	19	.612	—
Cleveland	30	20	.600	1½
Minnesota	29	19	.542	3½
Detroit	19	29	.388	11
Indiana	17	32	.347	13

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	36	12	.750	—
Houston	33	15	.688	3
San Antonio	33	17	.660	4
New Orleans	30	18	.625	6
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	26	17	.673	—
Oklahoma City	24	24	.500	8½
Denver	19	30	.388	14
Utah	17	31	.353	15½
Minnesota	16	30	.347	16½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	38	8	.826	—
L.A. Clippers	33	13	.713	6½
Phoenix	28	18	.609	11
Sacramento	17	30	.362	21½
L.A. Lakers	13	27	.326	26

Monday's games
 Charlotte 92, Washington 88
 Cleveland 97, Philadelphia 84
 Milwaukee 82, Toronto 78
 Brooklyn 102, L.A. Clippers 100
 New Orleans 115, Atlanta 100
 Oklahoma City 104, Orlando 97
 Dallas 100, Minnesota 94
Tuesday's games
 Philadelphia 105, Denver 98
 Boston 108, New York 97
 Portland 103, Utah 102
 Golden State 121, Sacramento 96
Wednesday's games
 Detroit at Indiana
 Washington at Atlanta
 Brooklyn at Toronto
 Denver at Boston
 Oklahoma City at New Orleans
 Chicago at Houston
 L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee
 Miami at Minnesota
 Orlando at San Antonio
 Memphis at Utah
 Dallas at Golden State
Thursday's games
 Washington at Charlotte
 L.A. Clippers at Cleveland
 Dallas at Sacramento
 Phoenix at Portland

Tuesday
Celtics 108, Knicks 97
BOSTON — Sullinger 11-19 0-0 22, Turner 9-15 4-5, Bass 5-9 2-12, Smart 3-9 5-6, 13, Bradley 11-14 1-1 26, Crowder 5-8 2-3 13, Young 7-17 2-15, Celtic 3-3 4-9, Thornton 1-3 1-1, 3, Totals 67-127 18-105.
NEW YORK — Amundson 3-6 0-0 6, Anthony 9-22 2-2 21, Smith 6-8 0-12, Calderwood 7-12 0-0 17, Gallaway 2-8 0-0 4, Ayo 2-4 0-1 4, Larkin 3-10 2-14, Thomas 4-7 3-11, Larkin 3-4 1-8, Early 0-0 0-0, Totals 41-83 8-11 97.
New York 25 31 25 28 25 — 97
 Three-point Goals — Boston 6-24 (Bradley 2-7, Smart 2-7, Crowder 1-2, Turner 0-1, Bass 0-1, Thornton 0-2, Young 0-3, Sullinger 0-3), New York 7-20 (Calderwood 3-4, Hardaway Jr. 2-3, Larkin 1-2, Anthony 1-5, Ayo 0-1, Gallaway 0-5). Fouled Out — None. Rebounds — Boston 46 (Sullinger 9), New York 39 (Smith 7). Assists — Boston 28 (Sullinger 6), New York 22 (Gallaway, Smith 5). Total Fouls — Boston 11, New York 18. Technical fouls — Defensive three second. A — 19-812 (19,763).



DON RYAN/AP

Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, front, drives past Jazz forward Derrick Favors during the second half on Tuesday in Portland, Ore. Lillard led Portland with 25 points as they beat the Jazz 103-102.

Pistons 108, Heat 91
MIAMI — Deng 3-9 4-10, Bosh 14-23 3-4, Whitehead 5-12 1-2 11, Napier 0-0 0-0, Chalmers 0-2 1-2, Ennis 0-1 0-0, Anderson 5-7 2-12, Johnson 2-4 1-2 5, Cole 1-5 0-2 2, Granger 3-6 2-10, Haslem 0-3 1-2 1, Hamilton 2-0 0-5, Totals 35-74 18-23 91.
DETROIT — Singler 5-8 0-0 13, Monroe 6-11 0-12, Drummond 6-11 2-14, Augustin 8-14 7-15, Caldwell-Pope 8-19 1-13, Meeks 3-11 4-4 10, Tolliver 1-0 0-3, Butler 3-4 0-7, Drummond 10-0 0, Jerabeo 0-1 0-0 0, Anthony 1-1 2-3, Lucas 11-1 4-0 3, Totals 42-88 15-50 108.
Miami 22 27 28 24 — 91
DETROIT 33 20 32 — 108
 Three-point Goals — Miami 6-14 (Bosh 3-5, Granger 2-4, Hamilton 1-1, Ennis 0-1, Chalmers 0-1, Deng 0-2), Detroit 9-20 (Singler 3-8, Augustin 2-3, Tolliver 1-2, Lucas 1-1 2, Butler 1-2, Caldwell-Pope 1-3, Jerabeo 0-1, Meeks 0-4), Fouled Out — None. Rebounds — Miami 42 (Whitehead 10), Detroit 54 (Drummond 14). Assists — Miami 23 (Cole 8), Detroit 27 (Augustin 13), Total Fouls — Miami 14, Detroit 17. A — 12-768 (22,076).

76ers 105, Nuggets 98
DENVER — Chandler 7-15 0-0 19, Faried 9-0 0-0, Nurkic 3-5 1-7, Lawson 1-4 3-4 5, Affalo 5-15 2-2 14, Hickson 2-4 1-5 5, Gallinari 5-11 0-11 22, Gort 1-2 1-4 3, Foye 0-2 0-0, Nelson 4-10 0-10, Arthur 3-7 0-6, Harris 2-4 2-7, Totals 33-85 20-38 98.
PHILADELPHIA — Covington 4-12 7-8 17, Mahab 4-10 2-5 0-4, Noel 3-6 4-5 10, Carter-Williams 4-12 6-10 15, Sampson 3-4 1-1 4, Thompson 8-12 3-13, Sims 0-2 0-1, Grant 0-3 6-6, McDaniels 4-8 2-11, Drew 13-6 0-7, Totals 31-70 32-42 105.
Denver 28 12 28 30 — 98
Philadelphia 34 27 24 20 — 105
 Three-point Goals — Denver 12-31 (Chandler 5-10, Nelson 2-5, Affalo 2-5, Gallinari 2-7, Harris 1-2, Foye 0-2), Philadelphia 11-27 (Thompson 4-6, Sampson 2-2, Covington 2-7, Drew 1-2, McDaniels 1-3, Carter-Williams 1-4, Mahab 4-10, Grant 0-2), Fouled Out — None. Rebounds — Denver 48 (Chandler, Lawson 6), Philadelphia 60 (Mahab 10), Assists — Denver 26 (Lawson 4), Philadelphia 26 (Carter-Williams 12), Technicals — Fared, Fargant Fouls — Gallinari, A — 10-290 (20,318).

Roundup

Warriors use 23-0 spurt to rout Kings

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Stephen Curry had 23 points and nine assists, and the Golden State Warriors rode a 23-0 spurt in the first half to beat the Sacramento Kings 121-96 on Tuesday night.

The Warriors shut down Sacramento for more than seven minutes at the end of the first quarter and start of the second quarter to take an 18-point lead. They went ahead by 20 at the half and 25 in the third quarter before holding off a brief Kings comeback.

Andre Iguodala added 17 points, and Marreese Speights finished with 17 points and eight rebounds to help the Warriors sweep the four-game series with Sacramento for the second straight season.

DeMarcus Cousins had 26 points and 11 rebounds, and Rudy Gay scored 20 for the Kings, who rallied within 11 late in the third quarter before the Warriors regrouped.

The Warriors had 33 assists and 11 turnovers, while the Kings had 17 assists and 18 turnovers. Golden State outreached Sacramento 50.5 percent to 44.3 percent and outscored Sacramento's bench 61-12.

"I love the box score. I love having a lot of different guys scoring and not having all the points concentrated on a few guys," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "It just makes us hard to guard."

It was quite a way for the NBA-leading Warriors (38-8) to begin a stretch of four games in five nights, including three on the road. In all, five of their last six games before the All-Star break are away from home.

Pistons 108, Heat 91 D.J. Augustin had 25 points and 13 assists and host Detroit closed the first quarter on a 25-1 run and went on to beat Miami.

Chris Bosh scored 34 points, including 21 in the third quarter, but nobody else provided much help offensively for Miami, which was still without injured star Dwyane Wade.

Andre Drummond had 14

points and 14 rebounds for the Pistons.

Trail Blazers 103, Jazz 102: Damian Lillard scored 25 points and host Portland, boosted by the return of center Robin Lopez, held off Utah.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 points and 11 rebounds as Portland snapped a three-game losing streak.

After wrestling for the lead to start the fourth quarter, Wesley Matthews hit two straight three-pointers and the Blazers went up 98-89 with 3:26 left.

Gordon Hayward's three closed the Jazz to within 99-96, but Lillard answered with a driving layup. Joe Ingles hit another three for the Jazz to pull within 101-99 with 9.9 seconds left.

Celtics 108, Knicks 97: At New York, Avery Bradley scored 26 points, Jared Sullinger added 22 and Boston snapped a three-game losing streak.

Bradley shot 11-for-14 from the field for the Celtics, who rediscovered their offense after a line-up change that put rookie Marcus Smart at point guard with Bradley. Smart made consecutive three-pointers during the Celtics' 14-2 start, and they never trailed.

Sullinger finished with nine rebounds and six assists. Boston had been limited to just 86.7 points per game during its skid, including a season-low 75 in an eight-point loss to Miami on Sunday.

Carmelo Anthony scored 21 points for the Knicks, who had won five of seven during the best stretch of the season.

76ers 105, Nuggets 98: Tobias Thompson scored a career-high 23 points to lead host Philadelphia to a victory over slumping Denver.

Michael Carter-Williams had 15 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds and Robert Covington added 17 points for the improving 76ers, who won their third straight home game for the first time since March 2013.

Danilo Gallinari scored 22 points to pace the Nuggets, who dropped their 10th in 11 games.

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NEX
 EXCHANGE

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Harrison, No. 1 Wildcats turn back Georgia

By GARY B. GRAVES
The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Not long ago, Andrew Harrison hesitated to take the shots that are now falling for Kentucky's sophomore point guard. Karl-Anthony Towns' main issue recently has been finishing off his promising starts.

Both players' determination to progress resulted in huge efforts that kept the top-ranked Wildcats unbeaten.

Harrison scored a season-high 23 points and combined with Towns for key baskets down the stretch that helped Kentucky stop pesky Georgia 69-58 on Tuesday.

Twice on the verge of running away from a Georgia squad playing its second straight game without leading scorer and rebounder Marcus Thornton (concussion), the Wildcats (22-0, 9-0 Southeastern Conference) saw their margin dwindle near the end.

Harrison and Towns quickly asserted themselves to preserve the Wildcats' lead.

Harrison's layup with 3:58 remaining provided a 62-54 lead before baskets by Yante Maten and Nemanja Djuricic pulled the Bulldogs to 63-58 with 2:06 left. Towns' short jumper with 1:53 left got the lead to seven, and Tyler Ulis' assist to Harrison, which added two free throws in the final minute for the Wildcats.



JAMES CRISP/AP

Kentucky's Andrew Harrison, center, shoots toward Georgia's Yante Maten, left, and Kenny Gaines on Tuesday in Lexington, Ky. The Wildcats remained unbeaten with the 69-58 win.

Towns finished with 15 with a career-high 13 rebounds.

Those performances were big for both players beyond the outcome. For the oft-scrutinized Harrison, it demonstrated a growing confidence in his game

that resulted in 8-for-16 shooting including three three-pointers, seven of Kentucky's 16 assists with just one turnover.

"I've been putting a lot of work in with my dad and the assistant coaches," Harrison said. "It's a

blessing to play well."

Added Kentucky coach John Calipari, "we're trying to get him to be more aggressive. There were a couple of plays early in the game I said, 'quit pulling it out. If they throw it to you, attack, make

plays and make plays for your teammate.'"

Djuricic's 17 points led Georgia (14-7, 5-4), which outrebounded Kentucky 36-24. Maten added 13 points and nine rebounds for the Bulldogs, whose nine offensive boards helped them stay nearly even in the paint against the taller Wildcats.

Georgia couldn't get the rebounds it needed in the final minutes while Kentucky did. Willie Cauley-Stein came up with one leading to Harrison's clinching foul shots, and Towns sealed the game with a block and rebound at the end.

"If we make another shot or two late, it could have been interesting," Georgia coach Mark Fox said. "Kentucky's got a great team and give them credit for making enough plays to win."

Towns and Harrison combined to shoot 9-for-16 from the field for 23 first-half points, including 10 down the stretch to provide a 42-27 halftime lead just when the Bulldogs were making it competitive.

Georgia eventually trailed by 18 early in the second half before drawing to 51-42 with a 15-7 run over 4:04. The Bulldogs didn't go away and had chances near the end but couldn't get closer than five in the final minutes.

Harrison and Towns made sure of that.

Roundup

Oklahoma topples WVU

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Buddy Hield scored 21 points and No. 21 Oklahoma defeated No. 15 West Virginia 71-52.

Hield, the Big 12's leading scorer, made 8 of 13 shots, including 5 of 7 three-pointers. Jordan Woodard had 12 points and Ryan Spangler and Isaiah Cousins each added 10 for the Sooners (15-7, 6-4 Big 12). Oklahoma shot a season-high 61 percent from the field to win their third straight.

Juwan Staten had 15 points and nine rebounds and Gary Browne added 12 points for West Virginia (18-4, 6-3), which had won three straight.

Devin Williams, the conference's No. 2 rebounder and Big 12 leader in field goal percentage, was ill and did not play.

No. 5 Wisconsin 92, Indiana 78: Frank Kaminsky scored 23 points and No. 5 Wisconsin's athletic frontcourt overwhelmed visiting Indiana.

Kaminsky was 9-for-12 from the field for the Badgers (20-2, 8-1 Big Ten). Nigel Hayes added 16 points on 5-for-5 shooting. Guard Bronson Koenig provided balance from the outside with 15 points, going 3 of 4 from three-point range.

No. 9 Louisville 63, Miami 55: Terry Rozier scored 22 points and visiting Louisville overcame second-half shooting woes to beat the slumping Miami Hurricanes.

The Cardinals began an early 13-point lead and shot 68 percent in the first half. They made only 31 percent in the second half, which allowed Miami to cut the margin to three points before Louisville dug in.

No. 14 Northern Iowa 61, Indiana State 51: Seth Tuttle had 15 points and eight rebounds and Jeremy Morgan added 12 points as Northern Iowa ran away from host Indiana State.

The Panthers (21-2, 10-1 Missouri Valley) won their 10th in a row and got their first season sweep of the Sycamores in five seasons.

No. 22 Butler 85, St. John's 62: Kellen Dunham had 21 points and seven rebounds to lead Butler to a victory over visiting St. John's.

Alex Barlow scored 15 points and Andrew Chrabaszcz added 14 for the Bulldogs (17-6, 7-3 Big East), who have won four straight conference games.

Vanderbilt 67, Florida 61: James Siakam scored 12 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked five shots as Vanderbilt snapped a seven-game skid in the Southeastern Conference by beating visiting Florida.

The Commodores (12-10, 2-7) scored the first 15 points and never trailed.

Syracuse 72, Virginia Tech 70: Michael Gbinije hit a spinning floater in the win with less than a second left to give Syracuse a comeback victory over visiting Virginia Tech.

Gbinije got a chance for the winner after the Hokies committed a backcourt violation with 71 seconds left.

Illinois 66, Rutgers 54: Kendrick Nunn scored 21 points and Malcolm Hill added 15 to help host Illinois survive a late rally against struggling Rutgers.

Illinois led by as many as 17, but Rutgers



ALONZO ADAMS/AP

West Virginia guard Jaysean Paige defends Oklahoma guard Buddy Hield, bottom, after Hield picked up a loose ball during Tuesday's game in Norman, Okla.

closed to within eight with 2:36 to play on a three-pointer by Kadeem Jack.

Arkansas 75, South Carolina 55: Bobby Portis had 18 points and 13 rebounds as host Arkansas won for the fourth time in five games with a win over South Carolina.

It's the 17th straight game in double digits in points for Portis

UConn coach fastest to reach 900 wins

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Geno Auriemma knows there has been a large gap in recent years between his program and others in women's basketball. Don't expect him to apologize for being so good for so long.

The Hall of Famer reached 900 victories faster than any other college coach, men's or women's, when No. 2 UConn routed Cincinnati 96-36 on Tuesday night. Auriemma needed just 1,034 games to reach the milestone, and is 100-6 since win No. 800.

The victory ties him with former Texas coach Jody Conradt for fifth place on the all-time women's list, 198 wins behind former Tennessee coach Pat Summitt.

Auriemma's winning percentage of 87.04 percent in the best in the history of the women's game. He also holds a record nine NCAA titles, and has appeared in the Final Four 15 times.

"We got a long way to go this year and a lot of work left to do," the Hall of Fame coach said to the crowd after the game. "I know this is 900, but there are six games in March that will mean as much as the previous 900 and they are the ones I'll try to reach."



Auriemma

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MICHAEL PEREZ/AP

Philadelphia University coach Herb Magee is close to joining Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski as the only coaches to win 1,000 games.



CHARLES FOX, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/TNS

Philadelphia University Coach Herb Magee speaks as he is enshrined into the the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., on August 12, 2011.

Make room, Coach K

Magee set to join Krzyzewski in 1,000-win club

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

Make room in the 1,000-win club, Coach K. Herb Magee is about to join some rarified air among coaching milestones, achieved without the national spotlight, a seven-figure salary or a designer suit for game day.

Less than two weeks after Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski earned his 1,000th career win, Magee can hit the same mark for Division II Philadelphia University.

Magee is a Philly U lifer. The 73-year-old Magee has earned every victory at tiny Philadelphia U and has become a local hoops icon and a Naismith Hall of Fame coach in a city with deep basketball roots. He set the school's scoring record (then known as Philadelphia Textile), bypassed a shot with the Boston Celtics to take a job at the school as an assistant, then became head coach in 1967.

He led the program to a national championship in 1970.

Against Wilmington on Tuesday, Magee failed to become the second coach in NCAA men's basketball history with 1,000 wins. Wilmington upset Philly U 72-70. But Magee will get another chance Saturday when the Rams host Post.

"We're not Duke," Magee said,

Did you know

In 47 years as head coach at Philly U, Herb Magee's teams have made the NCAA tournament 27 times.



AP

SOURCE: Philaurams.com

"but we appear on everyone's schedule as one of the most formidable opponents. Now, I'm not comparing my school to Duke, but everything's relative."

Magee leaves a giant imprint on the game every few seasons when he records another 100 wins or passes a coaching giant in the record book. Magee's 903rd win in 2010 helped him pass former Indiana coach Bobby Knight and become — for a short time — the winningest men's coach in NCAA history.

Magee and Knight met once at a coaching clinic 25 years ago, and Knight recorded a complimentary video of Magee that's posted on his website. Magee has yet to meet Krzyzewski.

"I know who he is. He might know who I am," Magee said. "But I've never even shaken his hand."

Krzyzewski, who has four

NCAA tournament titles, makes more than \$9 million per year.

Magee might not have made that much over decades at Philly U. But he wouldn't change his career, even if he could. He interviewed for other jobs, including at Villanova, in the 1970s.

"I certainly could have made a lot of more money," Magee said. "But I always felt Philadelphia is where I wanted to stay, where I wanted to live, where I wanted to do all the things I wanted to do. I never gave it too much thought."

Magee played at West Catholic High School with future coaches Jim Lynam (76ers) and Jim Boyle (Saint Joseph's) and ended his career at Philadelphia Textile (before it changed its name) as the school's leading scorer with 2,235 points. He averaged 29.1 points one season and was drafted by the Boston Celtics in 1963.

Imagine this in 2015: Magee actually passed on a chance to play for the Celtics. He broke two fingers on his left hand that summer and felt he couldn't crack a roster stocked with future Hall of Famers.

So he stayed home and built a D-II powerhouse.

Magee earned win No. 1 in his first game as coach with a 62-50 victory over Trenton State (now, The College of New Jersey) on Dec. 1, 1967. Magee has had only three losing seasons and built his career with regular 20-win seasons and NCAA tournament appearances.

On the brink of 1,000, he insisted the chase — and the media swarm that always slams Magee as he nears milestones — would not become a distraction for the Rams.

But the wins and his legacy matter to the players he helped shape in nearly 50 years of coaching. Magee forged a reputation as the "Shot Doc," tutoring pros like Charles Barkley, Jameer Nelson and Evan Turner.

With an enthusiasm for the game that has yet to dip, he's the coach Philly U can count on to lead the Rams for years ahead.

By the numbers

3

Number of losing seasons in Magee's 47 years coaching Philadelphia University, two of which were 13-14 records.

31

Number of seasons Magee's teams have won 20 or more games. He has never gone more than three years without 20 wins.

903

Victory Magee earned on Feb. 23, 2010, which surpassed Bob Knight and temporarily put him atop the NCAA wins list.

SOURCE: Philaurams.com

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Revolving rosters change coaching strategy

Instead of trying to build dynasties, teams focus on honing fundamentals

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Coaches, and perhaps basketball coaches in particular, thrive on control. So imagine the frustration when the one factor that best predicts success lies outside of theirs.

"Hard-working, talented student-athletes equal success," Wiesbaden girls basketball coach and athletic director Jim Campbell said. "These types of athletes can transfer in and out of your program overnight."

Campbell's comment neatly summarizes the plight of DODDS-Europe basketball coaches. Like a sand castle built too close to the water's edge, their efforts at sustainable construction are always undermined by a process over which they have no influence.

There is an ideal template for a consistently competitive high-school basketball program. A healthy youth system imbues interested children in the community with basic skills and organized experience. Those kids move up to high school and join the junior varsity, where they further develop their skills and learn their school's particular systems and strategies. When they're ready, they'll move up and contribute to the varsity squad, finding their way with the guidance of more-experienced older teammates. Eventually they'll become elder role models themselves, helping the next wave of prospects find their way in the program.

In theory, that cycle could continue indefinitely.

But such a system assumes that most players will spend their entire school careers in one place, rising through the basketball ranks predictably and reliably. That's an assumption DODDS-Europe coaches have learned never to make.

The transient nature of a military career means that many servicemen and civilians—and the ball-playing dependents that accompany them on their tours

—live in a near-constant state of flux, spending much of their lives either adjusting to a new place or preparing to leave it. While some parents might be able to exercise enough influence to extend their time at a certain base, the effects of a permanent change of station on a high-school basketball team do not factor into this ongoing churn.

That leaves DODDS-Europe basketball coaches at the mercy of what Sigonella girls coach and athletic director Michelle Chandler called the "PCS gods." Sometimes coaches will reap a bountiful harvest of eager and talented ballplayers, perhaps even an unexpected superstar. Other seasons bring drought conditions, leaving depth charts bare of proven players.

"I would say experience is the most important factor (to team success), but there isn't a team in Division I this season that was together last season," Ramstein boys coach Andrew O'Connor said. "So you can throw that out the window."

In response, DODDS-Europe coaches have learned to accept the significant role played by random chance in their programs' fortunes. Since the situation is highly unlikely to change, many have developed work-arounds to maximize their team's chances of success each year, regardless of the players they find on the first day's practice court.

Lakenheath boys coach Alan Campbell said he emphasizes personal skill development and teamwork; the idea being that a lineup of equally-productive players would absorb any personnel losses better than a team overly reliant on a star or two.

"I avoid depending on one star player because the other players do not develop as they should," the Lancers coach said. "I want my team to play as a team. I want each player on the floor to be effective defensively as well as a threat offensively."

Hohenfels girls coach Shawn



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Antwan Haynes gets a shot off as Ramstein's Jesse Gray challenges at Kaiserslautern, Germany on Jan. 27.

Rodman described a similar approach. Five of his 11 current varsity players have no prior organized experience, he said; part of his job is to put those players in positions to succeed without overextending them.

"We have to work on fundamentals and try to create situations where girls can perform the skills they do possess," Rodman said. "As coaches, we have to make it work, or at least try to."

There are other factors that further handcuff DODDS-Europe basketball coaches. At most DODDS-Europe schools, skilled athletes play multiple sports throughout the school year, book-ending football or volleyball in the fall with baseball, softball or soccer in the spring. Basketball is wedged into the four months in between, with the added challenge of a month-long holiday break in which many student-athletes dis-

appear for family vacations.

With the rotating cast of players, and those available splitting focus among a variety of sports and other extracurricular activities, it can be hard to find the practice time necessary to turn neophytes into serviceable players.

In that case, the problem is compounded. Such limitations would challenge even naturally gifted and experienced players, much less newcomers to the sport.

"You really need players who can come together and learn each other quickly," AFNORTH boys coach Michael Gros said.

Vilseck boys coach John Sabala said he looks for players who are "disciplined and tough-minded" and "unpreoccupied with individual glory."

"I believe the key to success is players buying into the program and believing in putting the team effort first in all things," Sabala

said. "That's something that is very difficult with the players of this generation."

Ultimately, the same realities that vex DODDS-Europe coaches give the sport a compelling brand of intrigue. A school's hoops fortunes can swing wildly in any given season: a last-place team one year could dominate the next; a reigning champion might share nothing but a locker room and a uniform in common with the preceding team whose title they're defending.

As for the coaches, they'll just have to enjoy the ride.

"We have to develop our players to their potential," Chandler said. "Different kids progress at different paces."

"It's a pleasure to see just how much they develop by the end of the season."

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Top performances

Boys basketball

Otis Reale, American Overseas School of Rome: The Falcons sophomore leader continued his prolific scoring season in Friday and Saturday wins over Vicenza. Reale scored 31 points in Friday's 52-49 win and 32 in Saturday's 48-47 victory.

Trey Bailey, Ramstein: Always a significant presence on the boards, Bailey mixed in a breakout scoring effort Saturday. The Royals forward posted game-high totals of 17 points and 15 rebounds in Saturday's 68-29 rout of rival Wiesbaden.

Jalen Hodge, Lakenheath: The Lancers guard

spearheaded a weekend sweep of AFNORTH with standout all-around play. Hodge scored a game-high 14 points in Friday's 58-31 win and piled up 16 points, seven assists, six rebounds and five steals in Saturday's 70-42 romp.

Forrest Becker, Alconbury: The Division III Dragons pulled off a pair of upsets over Division I SHAPE last weekend. Booker led the effort with 14 points in each game.

Girls basketball

Marissa Encarnacion, Patch: The Panthers point guard led the way to a convincing weekend

sweep of Hohenfels. Encarnacion scored a combined 29 points in the 50-13 and 40-13 wins.

Emma Knapp, Vicenza: The high-scoring Cougar showed the depth of her game in leading her team to 56-17 and 49-11 defeats of AOSR. Knapp's final two day-statistical tally included 26 points, 14 rebounds, eight steals and six assists.

Desiree Palacios and Ashley Mateo, Ramstein: The Royals blitzed rival Kaiserslautern on Jan. 27 behind the all-around excellence of Palacios and Mateo. Each was responsible for 12 points, five steals, five rebounds and relentless defensive pressure in the 44-28 win.

Wrestling

Nick Dufresne, Alconbury: The Dragons grappler extended his season-long undefeated streak in Saturday's home-gym meet. Dufresne ranks as a solid contender to advance through next week's sectionals and compete for the 182-pound European title.

Zack Adamson, Lakenheath: The Lancers senior bested rivals from Baumholder and Brussels on Saturday at Alconbury to keep his season record perfect. The 138-pounder was one of nine weight-class winners for the program.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS-PACIFIC/NHL



JAMES KIMBER/Stars and Stripes

Kinnick's Dre Paylor pins King's Keagan Longton in the 168-pound championship match on Jan. 24 in the DODDS-Japan Wrestling Tournament at Yokota High School in Fussa, Japan. Paylor is in his first year of wrestling.

Best of the both worlds

Football player Paylor making most of wrestling foray

By JAMES KIMBER
Stars and Stripes

HYOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan e's the current Beast of the East, the DODDS-Japan and Kanto International champion at 168 pounds. He's gut-wrenched, leg-laced and pinned his way to a 16-1 regular season. His only loss came in the very first match of his life.

Not bad for a football player. Dre Paylor is a junior at Kinnick who seemingly doesn't need to take up a new sport very long to be pretty good at it.

"He's got certain intangibles that you can't coach. He's eager to learn, learns fast and looks like he's been doing this for three years."

But Paylor's a rookie who never gave wrestling a second thought. Instead, he was busy setting DODDS-Pacific rushing records.

Paylor became the second running back in Pacific history with a 2,000-yard season in 2013 (2,002 yards on 250 carries). In the 2014 season, he had 1,573 yards and 18 touchdowns on 157 carries. He also holds the Pacific's single-game rushing record, 445 yards on 27 carries in a 36-23 win on Oct. 3 at Yokota.

His football coaches recommended he give wrestling a try after the season ended.

"I'm heading to Texas next year," Paylor said as he explained his reasoning to try wrestling. "The [football] players there are going to be bigger and have more experience against top-level talent. Wrestling will allow me to use leverage more to help take down players and how to better control my body when someone hits me."

'He's got certain intangibles that you can't coach. He's eager to learn, learns fast and looks like he's been doing this for three years.'

Gary Wilson
Kinnick coach

He got a little more than he bargained for, though. He still remembers "the kid from Kadena." Ricky Salinas wrestled for E.J. King before transferring to Kadena not long after becoming the only wrestler this year to defeat Paylor.

And there was "that Zuma guy," Paylor said with a smile, running his hands over his dyed-

red hair.

"From the bleachers, some of it looks like it's not such a big deal," Paylor said. "You're thinking 'yeah, I got this.' But on the mats, you're so tired, you're bleeding and the hits are violent. One minute of wrestling feels like one half of football."

It's the conditioning wrestling requires that has seen him drop from his football playing weight of 175 to 180 pounds down to 168. "I'm probably in the best shape of my life right now," Paylor said. "But I'll need to put that weight back on for football, especially if I can only make the team as a linebacker."

Of course, that weight probably needs to stay off in the spring, when Paylor is a sprinter for the track team.

"He's just such an incredible athlete," Wilson said. "He's always calm, relaxed and never worried about the score or what position he's in. He just finds a way to win."

There's no telling where Paylor would be if he had wrestled since his freshman year, but as far as he may be at times, he's not going to sneak up on anyone at Far East in two weeks at Osan.

"All I can do is leave everything I've got on the mat," Paylor said.

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Run: Wild close in on playoff bid

FROM BACK PAGE

the Wild's 3-0 shutout of Chicago. "He deserves an awful lot of credit for the way that he's played," coach Mike Yeo said on Monday. "I think we have a much better focus in front of him right now."

The Wild's victory over Chicago on Tuesday was their first home game in 15 days. They've pulled within five points of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference, and only one team is between them and eighth place.

"Obviously we need every win that we can get, especially the Calgary and Vancouver games. Those were huge games," Dubnyk said. "But if you approach the game and think, 'Oh my gosh, we have to beat these guys in regulation,' it's just not a good way to be successful."

The Wild last won three straight games in regulation from Nov. 1-5, 2013. They had a four-game winning streak earlier this season, but one of those came in overtime.

Goalies Darcy Kuemper and Niklas Backstrom struggled badly between the pipes while the Wild went 2-8-4 from mid-December until mid-January, prompting general manager Chuck Fletcher to call the Coyotes about Dubnyk. The former first-round draft pick, coming off a rough year with Edmonton, was limited in action behind Mike Smith in Arizona. So he welcomed the move, his confidence buoyed by work with Coyotes goaltending coach Sean Burke.

"To go from a place where there obviously wasn't an opportunity to start long-term and to come to a place and have an opportunity to play games right away is exactly what I wanted," Dubnyk said.



Jim Mone/AP

Minnesota goalie Devan Dubnyk deflect a shot during the first period of Tuesday's game against Chicago in St. Paul, Minn. The Wild won 3-0.

Top performers

Boys basketball

Jaret Colon, Kadena: Scored a team-high 18 points as the Panthers won for the second straight time against Kubasaki and lead the regular-season series 3-2.

Nicholas White, Osan: Averaged 17.5 points in the Cougars' final two regular-season games, each victories, to help Osan seal second place in the regular season and second seed in the league's postseason tournament.

Garrett Macias, Perry: Freshman forward enjoyed a breakout performance, season-high 28 points plus

14 rebounds, to help the Samurai win its first regular-season neutral-site game with Edgren.

Girls basketball

Rhyssa Hizon, Kinnick: Had 11 points, eight rebounds, six assists and six steals to help the Red Devils avenge two early season defeats at Edgren.

Caitlyn Rowan, Yokota: Averaged 11 points and 10 rebounds in two games, each victories.

Kaylee Spielman, Humphreys: Scored 20 points, her third time scoring double digits this season, as the Blackhawks closed the regular season with a 37-

point win over Daegu.

Wrestling

Danny Berdine, Seoul American: Won both of his bouts by pin at 129 pounds, averaging just more than 50 seconds on the mat per bout, to help the Falcons remain unbeaten in the DODDS-Korea season.

Dominique Tate, Kadena: Rallied from out of the knockout bracket to score two wins over Kubasaki's Alexys Fernandez for the title at 148 pounds in the double-elimination Okinawa Open Tournament.

JEFF ROBERSON/AP

SPORTS BRIEFS/SKIING: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Briefly

Serena ends boycott at Indian Wells event

Serena Williams says she will return to play in the tournament at Indian Wells, Calif., next month after boycotting the event for 14 years.

In a column for Time.com, Williams writes about the jeering and booing and an "undercurrent of racism" she felt during the 2001 semifinal and final.

Williams writes that with "a new understanding of the true meaning of forgiveness, that I will proudly return to Indian Wells in 2015."

After older sister Venus withdrew from the '01 semifinal against then 19-year-old Serena with an injury, the crowd booed. Serena wrote that there were allegations that matches between the sisters were fixed. In the final, against Kim Clijsters, the booing continued.

The tournament is scheduled for March 11-22.

UFC: Ex-champ tests positive for steroids

LOS ANGELES — Former UFC middleweight champion Anderson Silva has tested positive for steroid use, the promotion announced Tuesday night.

Silva tested positive for Drostanolone metabolites in an out-of-competition test Jan. 9, according to the Nevada Athletic Commission. The UFC says the commission is doing further testing to confirm the results. The announcement comes after Silva, 39, beat Nick Diaz by unanimous decision at UFC 183 last Saturday.

Silva is likely to face a disciplinary hearing soon before the Nevada, and his license to fight likely will be suspended.

Armstrong cited after SUV hits parked cars

DENVER — Disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong hit two parked cars with an SUV after a night of partying in Aspen, Colo., but agreed to let his girlfriend take the blame to avoid national attention, police reports show.

Police cited Armstrong with failing to report an accident and speeding weeks after the Dec. 28 accident, but only after his girlfriend, Anna Hansen, acknowledged lying for him.

Armstrong is scheduled to appear in court March 17.

Colts' Jackson arrested in DC in parking dispute

WASHINGTON — Police in Washington arrested Indianapolis Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson and charged him with assault after an argument over a parking space Tuesday.

The report says a driver told police that Jackson punched him in the face and head during a dispute over a parking space. Jackson was signed by the Colts as a free agent in March 2014.

Settlement reached in McIlroy dispute

DUBLIN — Top-ranked golfer Rory McIlroy reached an out-of-court settlement with his former management company Wednesday, cutting short a multi-million-dollar case that could have exposed the financial dealings of one of the biggest names in sports.

"The legal dispute between Rory McIlroy and Horizon Sports Management has been settled to the satisfaction of both parties who wish each other well for the future," both sides said in a joint statement released on the second day of the case.

Terms were not disclosed.

Russian team pays Taurasi to rest

Diana Taurasi is getting paid not to play.

The Phoenix Mercury star announced Tuesday that she will skip the 2015 WNBA season this summer after accepting an offer from her Russian club to rest. Taurasi was slated to make just more than \$108,000 this year playing for the Mercury — the third-highest amount on the team. She makes roughly \$1.5 million playing in Russia.

"They offered to pay me to rest and I've decided to take them up on it. I want to be able to take care of myself and my family when I am done playing," Taurasi said in a letter to Mercury fans.

Taurasi said she will play in the WNBA in 2016.

First black PGA Tour member dies at 92

Charlie Sifford, who fought the Caucasian-only clause on the PGA Tour and became its first black member has died Monday night. He was 92.

The PGA of America confirmed the death of Sifford, who recently suffered a stroke. No cause of death was given.

Sifford became the first black to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2004. Late last year, President Barack Obama presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

NFL suspends Browns Gordon for year

CLEVELAND — The NFL has suspended Browns wide receiver Josh Gordon for at least one year without pay for violating the league's substance-abuse program.

Gordon, who has already served two league suspensions, will have to apply for reinstatement. A league spokesman said his one-year ban begins immediately. The former Pro Bowler has been a repeat offender of the league's drug policy, and his latest offense has jeopardized his once promising career.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Austria's Anna Fenninger races down the course during the women's super-G competition at the alpine skiing world championships Tuesday in Beaver Creek, Colo. Fenninger won a windy first race.

Wind blows Vonn off track

American recovers to take third place; Fenninger gets title

BY PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — Lindsey Vonn's first race in her backyard at world championships wasn't so much a breeze.

No, it was a full-force gale that blew the American skier slightly off track early in the super-G on Tuesday before she recovered enough to earn a bronze medal.

The wind was so intense it whooshed her pony tail straight behind her while she waited in the starting gate. On the course, the blasts were so strong she stood up in the middle of her run, costing her valuable time.

Austria's Anna Fenninger was much more aerodynamic as she added a super-G world title to the Olympic gold medal she won in Sochi. Nearly as wind resistant was Slovenia's Tina Maze, who captured silver on a course that was shortened because of the blustery conditions.

This trio just may be the ones on the podium again in the downhill Friday. Vonn's already studying forecasts for the race, hoping for anything but blowing snow.

"I just want a fair race and another chance to get on the podium," said Vonn, who lives in nearby Vail.

That's the thing about ski racing: Conditions can't be the same for everyone. Not all the time, anyway.

"As an athlete you know that going in," Vonn said. "You know that in the start gate."

"You have to go with it and do the best you can."

With boyfriend Tiger Woods, her family and thousands of hometown fans cheering her on at the finish line, Vonn launched



JOHN LOCHER/AP

The U.S.'s Ted Ligety races down the course during a training run Tuesday in Beaver Creek, Colo. Wednesday's men's super-G race was canceled due to too much snow.

out of the gate and was instantly greeted by a strong headwind. She made some head way half-way down the course and crossed the finish line in first place to the thunderous ovation of the crowd. The lead didn't last.

Maze was next and beat her time, stunning the fans. Then, Fenninger found a fast line and grabbed the lead for good.

"I have to say that Anna skied exceptionally well," Vonn said. "But I would like another chance at the course with a little less wind."

Wednesday, the men's super-G race was canceled because of too much snow. The event has not yet been rescheduled.

However, there are only downhill training runs set for Thursday, possibly making that an option.

Workers tried to remove the snow from the course all morning. There was also low visibility.

Here are things to know:

Miller update: Six-time Olympic medalist Bode Miller was

all over the course in a downhill training session Tuesday. But his surgically repaired back held up just fine and he's planning to race in the super-G and the men's downhill on Saturday. He's yet to compete this season. "I have the speed to be a viable threat for the medals," said the 37-year-old Miller, who had a herniated disk fixed in his back in November.

Svindal report: When Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway tore his left Achilles in October, his chances of making it back in time for world were next to none. He had a solid training run Tuesday and is now going to give it a go in the super-G.

Harrowing experience: Austria's Marcel Hirscher, the reigning overall World Cup champion, was a little intimidated by the demanding Birds of Prey downhill course. After his training run, Hirscher said: "I'm super happy I'm safe in the finish area. For a slalom guy, it's a big experience to jump down Golden Eagle and the Harrier jump, all those crazy parts on this course. It was just fun."

SPORTS



Golden girl takes bronze

Vonn finishes third in super-G
at world championships » **Skiing, Page 31**

NHL

Dominant
Dubnyk

Jim Mone/AP

Since arriving in Minnesota three weeks ago via a trade with Arizona, goalie Devan Dubnyk has compiled a 6-1 record, including three shutouts, and a 1.48 goals-against average.



JEFF MCINTOSH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Minnesota goalie Devan Dubnyk, right, holds back Calgary's Josh Jooris on Jan. 29.

Wild climb back into thick
of race behind goalie's run

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. **S**hot after shot, Devan Dubnyk has been effectively defending the Minnesota net since arriving in a trade less than three weeks ago.

He might have saved the Wild's season, too.

Dubnyk has a 6-1 record with a 1.48 goals-against average and three shutouts while starting all eight games since the Wild acquired him from Arizona for a third-round draft pick.

"You wait and see how he's going to play, but you know what? I feel like any time you bring in a new player you have that initial inject of life in the room right away," left wing Zach Parise said.

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at 14 games, Page 30

Then on top of that, Dubnyk has made an immediate impact on a team stuck in a six-game losing streak at the time of the deal. The 28-year-old made 35 saves in a 4-2 victory at Vancouver on Sunday to help the Wild complete a three-game sweep of their western trip to Canada and revive their postseason chase. Dubnyk beat Calgary 1-0 on Thursday.

On Tuesday, Dubnyk stopped 24 shots in

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Europe: Teams in constant state of flux ■ Pacific: Paylor a natural at wrestling

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